MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE: ISSUE No. 24. November 1971

NOVEMBER 1971

A Merry (White) Christmas

NOT TO MENTION "I'M THE TO BE JOLLY!"

BING

EDITED BY JOHN BASSETT

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BING CROSBY

THE INTERNATIONAL
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An "X" here indicates that your subscription has expired.

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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS!

from REG BRISTO and JOHN BASSETT

We hope you all enjoy this special 'bumper' issue of your club magazine.

Next issue of "BING" February, 1972. Copy deadline: 24 January

"BING" (The International Crosby Circle) NOVEMBER 1971 Issue 24

EDITORIAL

Presenting a really 'bumper' pre-Christmas edition of "BING"! Well, it seems that we kicked off to a good start with our August issue, and despite Reg's criticism of his printing capabilities, I thought that he did exceptionally well, considering that he had no previous experience or knowledge of how to use an electric duplicator, and that he had the minimum amount of time in which to get the magazine out before the close of the month. Prior to becoming editor, yours truly had never even seen a stencil, let alone typed one, so Reg and I made a fine pair! Nevertheless, in my own opinion, the August issue was a good one, and on the strength of it a lot of people decided to send in a subscription. There is no stopping us now! A visible improvement will be noted with every successive issue, until "BING" is the best magazine of its kind. That's a promise!

Somewhere in this issue will be found a page or two covering Bing's 45th anniversary in show-business (18th October 1971), although I haven't included this feature in the contents.

"THE A TO Z OF BING CROSBY"

The following list of members reserving one or more copies of this I.C.C. publication is complete, up to and including mid-October 1971. Printing will now commence, and an announcement of availability and price will be made in the February issue of "BING". The "Gunn Report" and "Crosby Collector" will also carry this announcement. See page 32 of this issue for full details of the "A TO Z", and order your copy now!

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I.C.C. PUBLICATIONS FOR 1972

Preparations are in hand for the issue of a completely revised "BING CROSBY MINI-DISCOGRAPHY", and publication of the "BING CROSBY L.P.-OGRAPHY" is scheduled for mid-1972. Watch these pages for further announcements.

NEW MEMBERS

Reg Bristo and I, on behalf of the I.C.C., are pleased to welcome the "newer fellers" (and girls!) who join us with this, the November issue of "BING".

BILL WHITE (Essex)
NORMAN TOOGOOD (Southampton)
BERNARD BRUTY (London)
TIM BROOKS (New York)
LES BRICE (Romford)
EILEEN KNIGHT
ELSIE KENNEDY (Herts.)
BARBARA LUXTON (Sutton)
GORDON MARSHFIELD (Southampton)
L.MACKIN (Blyth)
A.C.TAYLOR (Epsom)

==========

IS BERNARD OUR YOUNGEST MEMBER?

Much to our amazement, we have discovered that one of our new members, Bernard Bruty, is just 15 YEARS OLD! In a letter to Reg Bristo, he writes:-

Dear Mr.Bristo,

My name is Bernard, and I was 15 years old on June 15th. Does this make me the youngest member? I have managed to tape the Bing records belonging to my father, and a friend of my father also has quite a few, and I was able to tape these last week. In this way, I am building up a small collection of Bing's songs. I first became interested in Bing in 1969 when playing some of my father's records. I played them all in turn and then came across the first record of Bing's in the pile. It was called "On Treasure Island". It was so good that I started searching for more of his records. I think that Bing is the best singer ever, much better than the singers they have on the radio nowadays.

Yours sincerely,

BERNARD BRUTY.

We are prepared to gamble that Bernard is the youngest Crosby enthusiast belonging to a society such as this in Great Britain! It gave us a lot of pleasure to fill-up a cassette tape for him, of about two dozen titles as featured on a "wants" list which he sent to us.

==========

LATE ARRIVALS!....since typing the previous stencil, two more reservations for the "A TO Z" project have arrived here, from Jimmy Johnson (U.S.A.) and John Knight (Berks.)

B I N G O at Michael's H O U S E Y !

Caller:
MICK DRURY

Have you ever had Bing approach you, look you straight in the eye and give you a big wink as he passed only an arm's length away? The venue was Gleneagles Golf Course and he was looking broze and fit, and behaving very much like the Bing we all know. Lest I should be accused by someone of driving off from the wrong tee, let me hasten to explain that Bing was on film at the time - some nice 8 mm colour with magnetic sound stripe, shot by James Dineen of Glasgow. It happened like this. James was at Michael Crampton's prior to showing his films at the 21st Anniversary Dinner and Meeting in the Griffin Hotel, Leeds, when - knowing that my girl-friend Jean and I would not be at the gathering - they arranged for a special run-through for our benefit at

Sunday lunchtime. Needless to say, we both enjoyed it and it allowed me an all-too-short re-union with Ralph Harding, Charlie Tupper, Reg Bristo and Fred Reynolds. Just by the way, I might add that Ralph arrived on his new Steed, a Hillman Avenger, having been accused of flying low over the Motorway!

I will not detail the films we saw....I am sure that will be done better elsewhere in these pages, but I would like to take these few lines to thank James (who is quite an authority on Bing's films) and Michael for their thoughtfulness on an otherwise busy day.

Just another illustration of the friendly spirit one meets at a Crosby gathering - especially at Leeds.

==========

(EDITOR's comment: Michael Crampton gives his report of the 21st Anniversary Dinner and Meeting elsewhere in this issue.)

@@@

Bing Crosby September 2, 1971

Mr. Leslie Gaylor
114 Medina Avenue
Newport
Isle of Wight
England

Dear Leslie:

Sorry Bing got away before you could locate him.

He had been in Scotland playing golf, and had business in London, Munich and Pittsburgh. None of us have been in touch, as he desired a complete vacation.

He is due to go to work here September 28, at which time he is scheduled to make some records.

Sincerely,

(signed) LARRY

Larry Crosby

LC:vs

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THE NEW CHRISTMAS ALBUM ! ! !

The following information supplied by courtesy of LESLIE GAYLOR:-

BING CROSBY - "A TIME TO BE JOLLY" (Daybreak DR 2006)

Jack Halloran and the Voices of Christmas with orchestra conducted by Les Brown.

Side A	1. "A Time To Be Jolly" (Brown-Hale-Burke) Daybreak Music/ASCAP Arr. Les Brown	2.10
	2. Intro: "Some Children See Him" * "I Sing Noel" (Regney-Shayne) MCA Inc./ASCAP Arr. J. Hill	2.45
	3. Intro: "Come, Dear Children" * "'Round And 'Round The Christmas Tree" (Jay Livingston-Ray Evans) Livingston & Evans, Inc./ASCAP Arr. Les Brown-Sonny Burke	3.00
	4. Intro: "All On A Christmas Morning" ** "The First Family Of Christmas" (Burke-Webster) Daybreak Music/ASCAP Arr. Sonny Burke	3.00
	5. "The Song Of Christmas" (Kui Lee) Sunbeam Music, Inc./BMI Arr. Sid Feller	2.55
Side B	1. "A Christmas Toast" (Lane-Taylor) Kiss Music Co./ASCAP Arr. J. Hill	3.00

2. Intro: "Caroling, Caroling" *
"And The Bells Rang" 2.38
(Hale-Herron) Leron Music Co./BMI
Arr. Van Alexander

3. Intro: "Bright, Bright The Holly Berries" *
"Christmas Is" 3.10
(Faith-Maxwell) Marpet Music Corp./ASCAP
Arr. J. Hill

4. Intro: "We'll Dress The House" *
"When You Trim Your Christmas Tree" 3.00
(Burke-Carey-Powell) Crystal Music Publishers Inc./ASCAP
Arr. Van Alexander

5. "Christmas Is Here To Stay" 4.05
(Angelos-Kohan) Finjan Music Inc./BMI
Arr. Bob Alberti

The Alfred Burt Carols - *With lyrics by Wihla Hutson
**With lyrics by Bates G. Burt

Produced by: Sonny Burke

Recording Engineers: Lee Herschberg and Lenny Roberts

Now read on....THE BEST IS YET TO COME!!

EXTRACT FROM "RECORD RETAILER", issue dated October 9th, 1971:- Bing Crosby, Count Basie, Nelson Riddle and Frank Sinatra are among the household names of show business whose new recordings will in future be handled by POLYDOR in England, following a deal concluded with the Los Angeles based DAYBREAK records. First releases from the label scheduled for next month are Bing Crosby's new Christmas album, "A TIME TO BE JOLLY".

(Larry Crosby has confirmed this news in a letter dated October 8th. EDITOR.)

L E S L I E G A Y L O R writes:

All members will welcome the grand news of the forthcoming Christmas album, "A TIME TO BE JOLLY". Along with Bob Roberts I shared this news from Larry Crosby and as I have the facilities, I had some XEROX copies run off of the recording details and put them around in the right places. Frank Murphy and Bob Roberts very kindly informed me of the "Polydor" label release, and for those interested, the seven or eight 'new' tracks on the album were recorded by Bing in San Fransisco on September 7th and 8th, and he dubbed over existing orchestral tracks. We have to hope it sells well, because this is the deciding factor for any further L.P. issues by Bing. Along with everyone else, I look forward to this record, one reason being that nobody can put a Christmas song over quite like the Maestro.

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B I N G S N I P P E T S by LESLIE GAYLOR

I would like to report that down here on BBC Radio Solent, Bing is heard more than any other artiste, and this is wonderful you'll agree. It was I who managed to engineer this policy to some extent. In order to keep the flag flying for Bing, I made a presentation of no less than 23 Bing L.P.'s to their record library - all brand new albums, of course. I contacted the Longines people and they gave me a set of the Bing Crosby Treasury, which I also presented to the BBC, and these tracks have had some good 'plugs'.

(Les continues his column on page 9).

BISHOP'S BENCH

...sit a spell! More from the pen of BERT BISHOP

My first attempt to write a column under the above heading commenced with an article in the May edition, epigrammatically sub-titled within the script, "Hope springs eternal". This was a two-part essay concerning Bob Hope's wise-cracks and Bing's intrusion into Bob's films. Having been side-tracked in the summer issue by a currently topical subject, I held over the unbilled gag-spots section until this edition; so here now, as promised (or threatened!), is the second half of that original discourse.

"MY FAVOURITE BLONDE", a 1942 film, was the first opportunity we had of seeing Bing 'turn up' in a Hope comedy - a casual throw-away appearance - much less humorous than most of his later intrusions which one felt were a deliberate part of the script; here the impression is of a distinct ad lib by the director. (I wonder; who did arrange these diversions?).

In this particular film, Bob, who is a vaudeville comic, becomes unwittingly involved in a 3,000 mile chase across America accompanied by a beautiful blonde British agent (Madeleine Carroll) and pursued by Nazi spies - George Zucco and Gale Sondergaard (the 'boys' cross her path again in "ROAD TO RIO") suitably cast as the deadly enemy.

Bing's appearance certainly came as a surprise, as Bob had, as in previous films, made a jibe at him quite early in the story at the point where blonde agent, Karen, bursts into his dressing room at the theatre to seek sanctuary. She arranges to travel with Bob to Los Angeles, where he is due to appear in a film. Urging him to quickly gather his gear together, 'Rapid Robert' emerges from within his built-in wardrobe wearing a hastily donned reversable trench-coat and a beret, looking a likely candidate for the world's ten worst-dressed men! He counters Karen's disbelieving 'double-take' with,

"Charles Boyer on a foggy day; or Crosby on any day!"

Some time later, with their pursuers hot on their trail, they become involved in some kind of Irish-American multi-coach outing. Mystified as to what is afoot, Bob addresses a stranger nonchalantly leaning against a wall - it is Bing.

Bob. "Hey, pardon me bud, what is the line for?"
Bing. "Oh, the secretary there, he tells you what bus to get in".
Bob. "What for; the picnic?"
Bing. "Yeh, at the Humbold Park. You going out?"
Bob. "I think I will".
Bing. (He produces his pipe from within his pocket) "Have you got a match?"
Bob. "Yeh".
Bing. "Thanks".
Bob. "It's okay".

Bob walks away in quizzically considered thought: "Couldn't be", he finally concludes in a spoken aside; and apart from a 'boo-boo-boo' ending to "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" that Bob 'croons', that is the last allusion to Bing in this film.

The next one to come under the microscope also has two 'cracks' at Bing's expense, plus his final appearance: one that leaves Bob lost for words. In 1944 Samuel Goldwyn released "THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE"; an appropriate lead-in, as Bob and Princess Margaret (Virginia Mayo) seem to spend most of the film in captivity. Hope plays the part of an itinerant vaudeville actor, Sylvester the Great - of cowardly disposition (what else!) - who in the year 1740 becomes involved with a runaway princess and piratical cut-throats whilst travelling to the West Indies.

Falling into conversation with Princess Margaret, but unaware of her status, Bob boastfully produces his 'press-cuttings' for her perusal.

Bob. "Say, take a look at what they said about me in the Timbuctoo Bugle - boy, what a write up! Even mentions my name".
Princess M. (Reads) "Sylvester the Great attracts attention".
Bob. "That's enough".
Princess M. (Continues) "Of all the actors who ever played Timbuctoo, Sylvester the Great is probably the worst to..."
Bob. "And here's another one from the Leningrad Tatler".
Princess M. "Vodnya Great Sylvester. Vods krietsmya lubluya 'stinks'".
Bob. "In Russia that's a great compliment. It means I'm a shmiel - very few of us left!"
Princess M. "You seem to have done quite a lot of travelling".
Bob. "Yes. With an act like mine it's safer. I've been to a lot of places. I've been to the Indies, Europe, Africa; and you should have seen the show I did on the 'Road to Morocco'!"
Princess M. "Were you good?"
Bob. "Good! I'd have been sensational only some over-age crooner with laryngitis kept crabbing my act. I had to brush him".

During a much later sequence, Bob goes to the grand residence of the 'Governor' of the island to which he has temporarily escaped, in order to seek an audience with this personage.

Guard. "Citizen to see the Governor on a matter of civil complaint".
Bob. (In an aside) "I've always wanted to play the Palace".
Officer. "Your name, citizen?"
Bob. "Sylvester".
Officer. "What's your last name?"
Bob. "Crosby. I can't help it, that's the name they gave me; course, I'm a little thin for it!"

After some hilarious swashbuckling comedy with the pirates and villianous 'Governor' - played by such accomplished supporting actors as Victor McLaglen, Walter Brennan, and Walter Slezak - the closing minutes of the film find our 'hero' and heroine aboard a royal ship (in the prescence of the King) which has just rescued them from a cut-throat crew. Princess Margaret fears that her father, the King, will take her home; but he grants her the freedom to marry whom she wishes.

Princess M. "Oh father, you must have guessed it, I love him: though he is but a commoner, a humble servant of your Majesty: but he's so kind, and so noble, and so..."
Bob. "Handsome?"
Princess M. "And he's right here on this ship".
Bob. "Course, I'm not working steady, but what does that mean to a king - a little dowry - you'll never miss it".
Princess M. "Darling!"

She moves to join her true love, bypassing a bewildered Bob. From the ranks steps Able Seaman Bing Crosby - the background music swells to the famous signature tune "Where The Blue Of The Night" - and Bing embraces the Princess! As the camera pans in to a close-up of Bing, he speaks to Bob.

Bing. "Stick around son; something older may show up for you".
Bob. "How d'ya like that! I knock my brains out for nine reels, and a 'bit player' from Paramount comes over and gets the girl. This is the last picture I do for Goldwyn".
Bing. "Pardon me". (He verbally brushes Bob off to continue his affectionate embrace).
Bob. "Don't make a meal out of it".
Bing. "Go sell your rack, 'shellac'".

Bob utters a gasp of frustration and the picture fades from the screen!

Obviously, the use of the word 'shellac' is a reference to 'Sylvester's sleekly-groomed hair - a retaliatory remark by Bing for Bob's gibe of 'fuzz-head' that he often derisively throws at Bing; but the possibly idiomatic

expression, "Go sell your rack", I have never fathomed out.

The year now is 1947, and Bob has swapped his blonde for a brunette - Dorothy Lamour - in a film called "MY FAVOURITE BRUNETTE". Mistaken identity is a tried and true situation comedy stand-by and was frequently used by Bob in his films. This time it is by intent when he poses as the detective who occupies the office next to Bob's photographic studio. Here he has been leading a humdrum life as a baby-photographer, longing, in Walter Mitty fashion, to emulate the intrepid Sam McCloud - Private Eye, another unbilled guest-spot laconically played by Alan Ladd. When Sam is called away on a job, Bob assumes his identity, which immediately involves him with a gang of uranium thieves, amongst whom are featured two excellent screen villians, Peter Lorre and Jack LaRue: Lon Chaney also enhances the action by enacting his oft-played sympathetic-simpleton muscle-man role.

Bob gets caught on a murder rap, and in a flash-back story told to reporters whilst awaiting execution in the gas-chamber - "Gas! Haven't even put in electricity!" - Bob relates the events leading up to his present predicament. He has been 'framed' of course (will he never learn?). However, all's well that ends well, for as a result of Bob's amateur sleuthing evidence comes to light exposing the real crooks, just in time for a cliff-hanger reprieve for the apparently sardonically resigned Bob. To cap it all he wins the hand of Dottie Lamour - how did you guess?

Another happy ending then; but not for one particular character, for as Bob breezily chats among the relieved onlookers, the chief warden 'comes into shot'.

WARDEN: "Oh, I forgot to tell the executioner it's all off". (he calls across to the death-chamber) "Harry" (and signals to that effect).

Who should the executioner be - you've guessed again - BING! "Off!" he cries, punching the air in a gesture of unconcealed disgust at this lost opportunity! Bob turns to the cinema audience, saying, "Well, he'll take any kind of a part", and having for once scored off Bing turns back to embrace his brunette!

As a matter of interest, quite unconnected with this discourse as such, Bing has been called by his real christian name, Harry, in at least one other film, "ROAD TO HONG KONG" - there may be others, but I cannot recall them if there are.

In 1948 Bob found for himself almost another signature tune when he sang "Buttons And Bows" to Jane Russell in a spoof Western called "PALEFACE". The scenario nor sound-track makes nary a nudge at Bing: but he turns up very briefly in the sequel to this film - "SON OF PALEFACE" - made four years later. Bob delivers a short prologue at the commencement of this sequel - just to put you in the picture, as it were! Whilst in the middle of this vainglorious prelude, Bob is interrupted by a 12-second full-face shot of Bing driving a saloon car, it is night-time, and he is presumably supposed to be driving home from the studio, judging by Bob's remarks.

BOB: "Uh-uh! What's this? This is an old character actor on the Paramount lot we try to keep working; he's supporting a large family; but I guarantee you this fellow will not be in the picture tonight".

One is tempted to cry "shame", especially as the film was not as funny as its predecessor. Little did we know then that the best was yet to come; although we had to wait another seven years (1959) for Bob's brush with the most well-known of all the legendary bad men of the wild west - the James gang. As the title of the film, "ALIAS JESSE JAMES", suggests, Bob had again been the victim of an impersonation, only this time unwittingly. Sent out west by his company to sell insurance, he makes his biggest contract, and mistake, when he sells a vast life insurance policy to the infamous elder brother, Jesse!

The film draws to a close with Bob, and Jesse's ex girl friend (Rhonda Fleming) involved in a gun battle with the entire James gang in an apparently otherwise deserted Western main street. There, crouched behind the tradi-

tional miscellaneous 'props' that provide convenient shelter from the barrage of bullets, Bob, who barely knows one end of a revolver from the other, proceeds to pick-off the 'baddies' in no mean fashion. It is then that the camera reveals an array of television and cinema Western heroes surreptitiously hidden in various buildings, each in turn coinciding their shot with Bob's who thinks he is doing the fancy shooting.

Among the galaxy of gun-toting dispensers of law and order are featured James Arness: "That got him"; Ward Bond: "Well, back to the wagon"; Dale Robertson: "Well, another one for Boot Hill"; Clint Walker: "Shoot at my friend will ya"; Dale Evans (as Annie Oakley): "A little high"; and Gary Cooper with his inevitable "Yep". But the final gun-shot in this scene, which had the audience 'tickled pink', comes from BING, complete in Western garb, who appears at an upstairs window and nonchalantly 'knocks over' Jesse with one shot from his colt .45. He blows down the barrel of the smoking revolver in traditional style, chokes slightly on the fumes, and laconically drawls "This fella needs all the help he can get!"

And so it seems that this pithy comment concludes this two-part article detailing, as far as I know, all the unbilled gag-spots by Bing, and wise-cracks at his expense, as featured in films starring his perennial comedian pal - Bob Hope.

BERT BISHOP

B I N G ' S W A L L E T

A wallet donated by Bing Crosby will be auctioned at East Leake, Notts. to raise money for a new village hall.
(extract from "The Daily Express" Monday 27th Sept. 1971)

LESLIE GAYLOR continues his BING SNIPPETS

In May this year, I managed to do a 20 minute broadcast on Radio Solent, and upon arriving at the studios there was a joint letter from Bing and Larry on hand, thanking me for the various 'plugs' that I had got in for Bing, and this impressive letter was read out over the air.

These local BBC radio stations only get £5 a week for the purchase of records, so I have learned, and that's where I stepped in, in order to get plenty of Bing material on the air.

Anyone purchasing the new 'Guinness Book Of Records' (published late October, 1971, price £1.20) will find a splendid reproduction therein of my photograph of Bing's second Platinum Disc. As this has gone into a million or so copies, I have pulled off one of my biggest ever 'plugs' for Bing!

My very best wishes to all club members for the coming festive season!

"THE A TO Z OF BING CROSBY"

See page 32 for full details of this I.C.C. publication and reserve your copy now! Since compiling the list at the beginning of the magazine, I've received another dozen orders for this project, so don't worry if your name has been missed off. (EDITOR).

Joke heard on television recently...

"....take a great singer like Bing Crosby. If he sings a Catholic song, thousands of Protestants become Catholics! When he sings "There's A Goldmine In The Sky", 40,000 Jews join the Air Force!...."

CROSBY SHOPPE

Free advertising for members wishing to buy, sell or exchange items of Crosby ~a.

JIM HAYES, 161 Bowland Drive, Liverpool, L21 0JA, has the following copies of "Crosby Collector" for sale: Nos.34:38:40:43:44:45:46:49:50:51:52:53:54:55:56:57:58:59:60. Price 32p each, post and packing paid. Only available to British Isles residents. Please enclose a SAE with order (for the return of remittance if your requirements have already been sold).

JOHNNY JOYCE, 16 The Square, New Invention, Willenhall, Staffs.
I am auctioning, to the highest bidder, my entire collection of 78 rpm records of BING CROSBY and MICHAEL HOLLIDAY. I possess practically everything recorded on 78 rpm by both these artistes. My 78 rpm Bing collection includes every English Brunswick, unissued in U.K. American Brunswicks (except "Face The Music Medley"), all American Deccas of titles not issued in the U.K., some "V"-Discs, and all other 78 rpm issues including variant 'takes'. Decca records not issued in the U.K. include "But Not For Me" (Indian Col. issue), "Old Soldiers Never Die", "Bombardier's Song", "When The Sun Goes Down", "If I Loved You" (L3807), "Just My Luck", "You May Not Love Me", "Neighbours In The Sky", "Let's All Meet At My House", "Forsaking All Others", "There'll Be A Hot Time In Berlin", "Evelina", "The Eagle And Me", "Gotta Get Me Somebody To Love" (L4184), "Stay Well", "Little Grey House". Other interesting and rare discs include "Because", "How Long Can It Last", "Shadows On The Window", "Happy-Go-Lucky You", "Duke The Spook", "The Film Stars Parade", and many others.

Please state and bid for your particular "wants". Only the highest bids will be notified. Wooden boxes must be supplied by winning bids. SEND NO MONEY UNTIL NOTIFIED, and please do not enclose a stamped addressed envelope. I am prepared to take offers for the whole collection, or will dispose of individual discs to the highest bidders. No lists are available, but after this initial auction, lists will be issued in "DING" of the remainder of the collection.

I am prepared to swap items for my "wants", as listed below:-
(a) "Going Hollywood" Volume 3, Australian issue.
(b) "Merry Christmas" Decca 12" L.P. Stereo only.
(c) "I Wish You A Merry Christmas" Warner Bros. 12" L.P. Stereo only.
(d) High quality tapes of Bing's "Hollywood Palace" T.V. shows - but Bing Crosby extracts only. Complete shows not required.
(e) Edith Piaf. Tapes or L.P.'s not issued in England, or any tapes of T.V. or radio broadcasts.
(f) Big Band stereo L.P.'s, but not reissues in stereo form.

I also possess a collection of Richard Tauber and George Formby discs for sale.

Many 16" Transcription discs ("Red Cross", "Armed Forces", etc. etc.) are also available within the Bing collection, plus all 78s of Bing with Whiteman, Lanin, Dorsey Brothers, etc.

All enquiries to Johnny Joyce (address as above).

EILEEN KNIGHT, 57 Burlington Road, West Bromwich, requires records of Burl Ives. Please send details, together with condition and price.

LARRY F.KINER, 7554 132nd Avenue N.E., Kirkland, Washington, 98033, U.S.A. is prepared to trade taped copies of Bing's radio/television appearances, for records (78-45-LP) that he needs. He will be pleased to receive lists of "wants" from members, together with details of records which they can provide.

The EDITOR urgently requires 45-singles and E.P.'s of Bing Crosby (both U.K. and U.S.A. issues). Please send full details, together with condition and price. Also, many 10" L.P.'s required. What have you? All letters will be answered.

OFFERS INVITED by JACK PARSONS, 29 PURLEY ROAD, CIRENCESTER, GLOS. GL7 1EP. Suggested minimum bid for each 78 rpm disc is 15p, but the highest offer received within six weeks of publication will secure. All postage extra.

All by BING CROSBY

1. True love/Well did you evah? Cap.CL14645. E-/E+
2. (as above). E.
3. Small fry/Mr.Gallagher and Mr.Sheen. BrE 02653. E+
4. Adeste fideles/Silent night. BrE 02054. V+ (light scrs.)
5. The moon and the willow tree/Too romantic. BrE 02973. V.
6. On the sentimental side/My heart is taking lessons. BrE 02640. V+
7. Bob White/Basin St.Blues. BrE 02492. V+ (light scrs.)
8. Ah! Sweet mystery of life/Sweethearts. BrE 02761. V.
9. Song of the islands/Aloha oe. BrE 02320. V+ (grit marks)
10. Robins and roses/Would you. BrE 02223. V/V+
11. Just one more chance/Stardust. BrE 02312. E- (small dig plays over, sd.1)
12. I promise you/More and more. BrE 03581. V+
13. Miss you/Mandy is two. BrE 03312. E+ (edge flake not aff. play)
14. Just a prayer away/A friend of yours. BrE 03589. N-/E+
15. All by myself/You keep coming back like a song. BrE 03672. V.
16. People will say we're in love/Oh!What a beautiful morning. BrE 03708
17. There's no business, etc./Anything you can do. (edge flake nap.) BrE 03809. V.
18. The three Caballeros/Don't fence me in. BrE 03565. E.
19. Long ago and far away/Is you is, or is you ain't. BrE 03539. E.
20. Amor, amor/I'll be seeing you. BrE 03533. E.
21. My girl's an Irish girl/Galway Bay. BrE 03882. E. (light scrs.)
22. (Withdrawn by advertiser)
23. You are my sunshine/Day dreaming. BrE 03300. E-
24. (as above). V-
25. Sam's song/So tall a tree. BrE 04553. V+
26. Mule train/Dear hearts and gentle people. BrE 04420. E.
27. Zing a little zong/JANE WYMAN. BrE 04981. E- (light scrs.)
28. At last, at last/The Isle of Innisfree. BrE 04900. E.
29. (as above). E-
30. Around the world/VICTOR YOUNG. BrE 05674. E.
31. Honeysuckle rose/Swanee. BrE 05585. V+
32. Sleepy time gal/No other love. BrE 05558. E- (light scrs.)
33. Bali hai/Some enchanted evening. BrE 04756. E- (light scrs.)
34. Who gave you the roses/Stranger in paradise. BrE 05410. E+
35. What can you do with a General/Count your blessings. BrE 05339. E+ (edge
36. Soon/Down by the river. BrE 01994. E- flake nap.)
37. Ciribiribin/Yodelin' jive. BrE 02881. V.
38. Kentucky babe/Whiffenpoof song. BrE 03902. E+/E. (edge flake nap.)
39. I haven't time to be a millionaire/April played the fiddle. BrE 03031. V-
40. Learn to croon/Thanks. BrE 02493. V+
41. The Pessimistic character/Meet the sun half way. BrE 03032. V+/V.
42. I'll take you home again, Kathleen/Bells of St,Mary's. BrE 03635. E-
43. I'd rather be me/Atcheson, Topeka, etc. BrE 03650. E/E-).(light scrs.)
44. I'd know you anywhere/Along the Santa Fe Trail. BrE 03142. E- (light scrs.)
45. Riders in the sky/Careless hands. BrE 04098. E (Heat mark, sd.1, just
46. Adeste fideles/Silent night. BrE 02054X. E. audible).
47. (as above). V+
48. Love in bloom/Please. CoE DB1802. N-
49. Try a little tenderness/How deep is the ocean. CoE DB1985. N-
50. Temptation/Thanks. CoE DB2056. E.
51. Let's spend an evening at home/Some day we'll meet again. CoE DB2153. E+ (light scrs. side 1)
52. Someday sweetheart/Let me call you sweetheart. BrE 01992. V.
53. Lovely lady/The touch of your lips. BrE 02179. Damaged, free with order.
54. Shadow waltz/My little buckeroo. BrE 02413. E.
55. Smarty/The moon got in my eyes. BrE 02498. N-
56. Silver on the sage/When mother nature sings her lullaby. BrE 02664. E
57. There's a goldmine in the sky/Twilight on the trail. (light scrs.) BrE 02927. E-

58.Between 18th and 19th on Chestnut St./Sweet potato piper. BrE 02974. V.
59.Devil may care/The singing hills. BrE 02978. V+
60.The Whistler's mother-in-law/Anniversary waltz. BrE 03289. V.
61.Happy holiday/Be careful, it's my heart. BrE 03381. E.
62.White Christmas/Let's start the New Year right. BrE 03384. E-
63.The singing sands of Alamosa/Conchita, Marquita, Lopez. BrE 03390. E.
64.Be honest with me/It must be true. BrE 03396. V/V+
65.Girl of my dreams/Mary's a grand old name. BrE 03418. E+
66.A friend of yours/Just a prayer away. BrE 03589. N-
67.Where the River Shannon flows/Did your mother come from Ireland. BrE 03651. V+
68.Pretending/Gotta get me somebody to love. BrE 03800. N-/E.
69.Adeste fideles/Silent night. BrE 03929. V+
70.When my dreamboat comes home/Baby, won't you please come home. BrE 04113. V-
71.The kiss in your eyes/Friendly mountains. BrE 03932. V.

Featuring Bing:
72.RHYTHM BOYS: Wa-da-da/That's my weakness now. CoE 5006. E/E-
73.IPANA TROUBADOURS (scarce!): I'll get by/(non-Bing). CoE 5391. E- Min.30p.

Bing Crosby L.P.'s:
74."Bing Crosby" Music For Pleasure MFP 1240. (10 titles). N- 60p. Set price.
75."Crosby Classics" 10" Columbia 33SX 1036. (scarce!). E+ £1.10p. Set price.
(Both these items in plain sleeves).

(EDITOR's comments: This is our first major 78 rpm auction/sales list, and more lists have been promised if the response is good. Please help to make this feature of "BING" a success by sending in your offers.)

The following information from JOHNNY JOYCE arrived after I had typed the stencil featuring his advertisement, therefore it is included here:-

Also available: ALL 12" 78 rpm "V"-DISCS by Bing Crosby. (Except "It Can't Be Wrong"). Minimum offers on these: £2.50 each.
Also: "THE NAVY SWINGS". Two 12" L.P.'s with Bing and Buddy Cole, both non-commercial. Minimum offers: £2.50 each.

The taped extracts from "HOLLYWOOD PALACE" which are required must be up to Studio quality....not home tape recordings.

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78 RPM CATALOGUES FOR SALE — Compiled by JIM HAYES

© 25p, plus 4p, p & p	BRUNSWICK 1930 to 1935. CROWN 1935 to 1937. EDISON BELL RADIO 1928 to 1932. EDISON BELL WINNER W1 Series 1933 to 1935.
© 75p, plus 7p, p & p	COLUMBIA CB1 Series 1930 to 1935. HIS MASTER'S VOICE B5000 Series 1926 to 1935.
© £1, plus 7p, p & p	DECCA F1500 Series 1929 to 1934.

All orders with payments to: J.G.HAYES,
161 BOWLAND DRIVE,
FORD,
LIVERPOOL,
L21 0JA.

TAPED CROSBYANA

Strict legal copyright clauses appertain to private tapings for obvious reasons. Certain taping facilities involving non-commercial material may be available to club members without offence to anyone. Publicity Officer, BOB ROBERTS, 56 Thorold Road, Chatham, Kent, is an expert in this field, and his advice is available to any member. Please mention "BING" and enclose a SAE for a prompt reply.

FRED TETLOW of "Tetlow's Records", 96 St.Mary's Road, Southampton, SO2 OAH, can supply new copies of the Reprise L.P. "Robin And The Seven Hoods" at £2.98p each. This disc is an imported record, hence the price, but is a "must" to label collectors. The quality is 100 per cent superior to the U.K. release of 1964. The album contains four Bing tracks: "Don't Be A Do-Badder", "Style", "Mister Booze" and a repeat of the first title, in which he is joined by Sinatra and Martin.

House your collection of Bing 78's in first-class stiff cardboard record covers. Brown cardboard with brown binding, as used by your EDITOR!!
10" size - up to 100: 3p each. Per 100: £2.45. Per 1,000: £22.50
12" size - up to 100: 4p each. Per 100: £3.45. Per 1,000: £26.40
Postage extra, except in the case of 1,000 quantities which can be sent carriage free. (Inland only). Free sample sent anywhere on request. From: JOHN GUNN, 15 Lynton Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex. (Please mention "BING" magazine when writing).

The EDITOR urgently requires copies of the following records:
(a) "Where the blue of the night" PHIL CROSBY (Reprise 45-single)
(b) "Where the blue of the night" The BACHELORS (Decca 45-single)
(c) "Who killed Cock Robin" WALT DISNEY s/track (HMV BD.358, 78 rpm)
(d) "I think I can" JACK BUCHANAN (78 rpm)
(e) "Oh Tell Me Why" BING (45-single)
Good prices paid for records in a minimum of E condition. All letters answered.

C A N A D I A N R E P O R T from M.JEAN-PAUL FREREAULT

I have just returned from a short visit to New York City at Labor Day weekend, and during that visit I ventured into a record shop on 42nd Street, looking for L.P.'s by Bing. I discovered a pile of the new German 'Historia' issues, "The Jazzin' Bing Crosby". They had about 15 copies in stock, so if anybody is interested, the address is:-

KING KAROL RECORDS SHOP
111 West 42nd Street,
New York City.

When I returned home, I checked the L.P. for alternate 'takes' and found that "Moonburn" is take-A, issued only in Germany, England and Australia, but not in the United States or Canada. So this track is a 'must' for us over here, and it's the same for "My Honey's Lovin' Arms" for those who don't have take-A.

Soon after my visit to the record shop, I was walking in front of a liquor store (booze!), and in the window I saw a bottle of whisky with the name "Bing Crosby" on it! I said to myself, "Let's go in and see what it's all about", so in I walked and asked the clerk to show me the bottle. It was a 4/5 quart, 84 proof of Kentucky Straight Bourbon whisky, 100 months old, and on sale to commemorate the 29th Bing Crosby National Pro-Am Golf on the Monterey Peninsula, California. January 1970 - 4 days - 72 holes, $150,000, Pebble Beach. The design on the bottle is very fancy, and includes the ocean and a tree. I paid $10.70 for it, and it is a nice decoration for my bar in the basement. The clerk added that the 30th Pro-Am tournament bottle had just arrived, but another $10.00 was too much for me! I'll try and purchase it on my next trip over there.

So....don't say that we are going to have to look in the booze store for Bing material! This just proves that anything can happen concerning our beloved Bing. To conclude, our local radio station CFCF is working out a half-hour programme on Bing for his 50th year in show business. The radio people have spent quite a lot of time in my house, compiling information and material. The programme should be great, and they have promised to make a tape for me. Best wishes!

REFLECTIONS UPON....A CROSBY COINCIDENCE

By EDWARD TOWLER

All of us must have experienced at one time or another those unaccountable occasions when we suddenly find, or stumble across, or have given to us, a certain record that we had long given up hope of ever possessing. In a recent issue of this magazine, Reg Bristo related how after years of fruitless searching, he was suddenly presented through the generosity of a correspondent with a copy of Bing Crosby's record of "For Love Alone". By the same reckoning, I experienced a remarkable coincidence that has a certain bearing on Reg's story, and which might make an interesting corollary to it.

Prior to reading Reg Bristo's article, I was not even aware that Bing had recorded "For Love Alone", but as I read Reg's glowing words of appreciation, and of his obvious love of the record, I made a mental note to listen to it at the very first opportunity. Around the time of its issue in 1936/37, I was quite an ardent collector of Crosby's records and purchased a large number of his recordings which were released about that time. The majority of these I still have on the originally purchased 78 - titles such as "So Do I", "Pennies From Heaven", "Me And The Moon", "Hawaiian Paradise", "South Sea Island Magic", "Let's Call A Heart A Heart", "Sweet Leilani", "Can I Forget You", "Dancing Under The Stars" and "Palace In Paradise". It will be noticed, incidentally, that there is a liberal selection of Bing's Hawaiian recordings amongst these titles, and I must admit to an extreme partiality for Bing's recordings with an hawaiian accompaniment. Bing always sounds so completely relaxed when accompanied by the gentle, almost languid rhythms of hawaiian guitars - and I in turn find these recordings immensely relaxing to listen to.

"For Love Alone", however, seems to have eluded my attention. Possibly it was, as Reg pointed out, because Bing's interpretation of the piece is out-of-tempo. In my youthful bliss at that time, I tended to like my music with a rhythmic emphasis and anything not in tempo would most probably have held little appeal for me. Perhaps I had just overlooked the record. But as I frequently used to buy my records at that time after hearing them on the radio, it is quite possible that I <u>did</u> hear "For Love Alone", and rejected it because it did not appeal to my youthful taste at the time!

However, to come to the point of this short piece, the <u>very next day</u> after reading of Reg's valued assessment of the record, I walked into a shop that sells second-hand records (generally of the long playing variety), and was confronted with a pile of about a hundred 78's! I turned them over in that mood of anticipation that we all feel on such occasions. Most were of 1950 vintage. There were a number of Frankie Laine's, some Johnny Ray and Nellie Lutcher. There were quite a few jazz items of the more popular kind such as Muggsy Spanier's 1939/40 Ragtimers on HMV, some Goodmans, Ellingtons, Charlie Barnets and Bob Crosbys, most of which I have on 78's or long-playing re-issues. There were sundry titles, I recall, by a chap named Sinatra. Not much to interest me here I thought! Then suddenly, about half a dozen records from the end of the pile, there was that familiar black and gold label - and leaping from the record, those hope-bearing words BING CROSBY. And above them in bold type, the title - "FOR LOVE ALONE"! I could hardly believe my eyes! I took the record out of its tattered cover, fully expecting to find it in a pretty worn condition, but to my delighted surprise a quick examination revealed it to be in what I suppose one would call an "Excellent" grading - not a "Mint" recording like Reg's copy, but one which nevertheless, I subsequently found to be in excellent playing condition. But what was even more remarkable, it was the ONLY Crosby record there! I asked the shopkeeper, "What do you want for this one?" As though aware of its worth but uncertain of its value, he took the record out of its cover and inspected it. "Two bob, Sir?" he replied in a tone which seemed to question whether I was prepared to pay that price! With my treasure duly secured, I walked out of the shop with uplifted heart, fully convinced that miracles <u>do</u> sometimes happen - and reflecting how

remarkable it was that right after reading Reg's appraisal of the record, it should fall into my hands, out of the blue as it were!

I have of course now heard the record, and I fully endorse all that Reg had to say about it. The song does indeed make an unusual vehicle for Bing, but he sounds completely at ease with it. The phrasing and delivery is all so effortless, the voice beautifully modulated. And the richness and fullness of his intonation makes one wonder how he ever came to be labelled a crooner. As I seem to recall Reg commenting in an earlier article, I would place Bing's version of this melodic ballad in the same class as his recording of "Ah, Sweet Mystery Of Life". They both receive similar treatment, but that Bing could make such a success of this type of ballad - and of course of such diverse material as "Adeste Fideles" and "Gypsy Love Song", etc. - is evidence of the all-embracing versatility of his many-facetted talents.

I always think of the period during which "For Love Alone" was recorded as Bing's "classic" era. This had its origins, I like to think, around the end of 1935 and lasted until circa 1941/42. By the time "For Love Alone" was recorded in 1936, Bing's voice and style had fully matured. He has a command of phrasing and an innate sense of timing that was masterly in the extreme. He had developed and perfected a style that was uniquely individual and immediately recognisable. The rough edges in his voice had been smoothed out, and in particular the harshness in the upper register which had been evident in many of his 1931/32 recordings had been replaced by a mellowness that was reflected throughout his entire range. The power was still there, but it was controlled and modulated and used with far greater sensitivity, and with much more attention to dynamics, than on the earlier recordings. Added to this, he had the good fortune for the greater part of this period in having in John Scott Trotter and Victor Young two arrangers and musical directors who recognised to the full his unique talents and deployed them to the best effect. The result of all this was a series of recordings between 1935 and 1942 which in my opinion have been unsurpassed by any other popular recording artiste before or since, and which will remain for as long as we treasure and value the finer achievements of mankind, as prime examples of the art of popular song.

I think the evidence of this progress in the development of his style and voice is fully illustrated by a comparison of Bing's earlier recordings with later versions of songs of the same title, and I have no hesitation in declaring my preference, for instance, for the 1939 versions of "Stardust" and "Just One More Chance" to those of 1931; or the 1940 version of "Please" to that of 1932. If the earlier versions of these songs may be said to be the prototypes, then the later versions, and all those magnificent recordings that made the years between 1935 and 1942 such memorable ones, may be said to be the completed article - the finely sculptured work of a master craftsman, a remarkable technician and a much loved and respected artiste of incomparable stature.

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* "BING CROSBY'S TREASURY - THE SONGS I LOVE" *
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Once again, the Longines Symphonette Society are giving their Bing Crosby Treasury extensive publicity, both in national daily newspapers and weekly magazines. In case you still haven't got round to purchasing this six-L.P. set, the details are as follows: The set contains 80 titles, 36 of which are by Bing, recorded Nov/Dec 1965 and March 1968. You can send for them on a 10-day examination period, after which you can return the set at no cost to yourself, or send £1 deposit followed by £1 a month for nine months. Alternatively, pay £8.50 cash. A free L.P. of original 78 transfers is yours to keep, should you decide to purchase the set.

THE SYMPHONETTE SOCIETY,
Symphonette House, 366 Kingsway, Hove, BN3 4QT.

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DO I HEAR YOU SAYING?

The title from Bing's 1928 recording session with Paul Whiteman, introduces one of our most popular features.

The EDITOR'S POSTBAG

MICHAEL CRAMPTON (Leeds) writes: May I express my admiration for your presentation of the latest issue of "BING". The appearance of discographical information is also greatly appreciated and you will find considerable interest amongst the members in this new service you are providing. One service that has never been included in the magazine is a complete listing of Bing's films. Many members will have no such listing and they would appreciate perhaps several issues coverage of this aspect. Any chance?
(EDITOR's comment: I'm hoping to commence a film listing in the next issue, providing I can sort out some copyright restrictions in time.)

HERBERT BOOTMAN (California, U.S.A.) writes: For some time now I have enjoyed Reg Bristo's comments in the magazine, particularly his recent phrasings on that magic interval when Bing recorded with Georgie Stoll and his orchestra. If I were asked to name my favourite recording from this period, I would say without hesitation, "June in January". I pinpoint Bing's lyrical peak on that selection in the centre of a two year interval. His voicem his material, and his accompaniment all culminated during 1933-35. Please, please reserve for me two copies of "The A to Z of Bing Crosby". I wish you and Reg every encouragement and success with the magazine, the pages of which delight me, so don't lose your steam. I marvel that people like you so far removed in space and time from that glorious era are so knowledgeable and articulate about our durable hero.

RAYMOND McCORMACK (Belfast) writes: I have received the August issue of "BING" for which I thank you for your very fine efforts. I also apologise to you that I should have been the only "sour grape" in that issue, but I'm sure you'll understand my feelings. I am enclosing copies of pages of a well worn, but precious scrapbook which I've had in the loft of my house. I unearthed it after reading of your request for miscellaneous news items for publication in the magazine. All the best for the future.
(EDITOR's comment: Thanks, Raymond, for the wealth of material from your scrapbook, all of which will eventually appear in "BING" if it takes from now until Christmas 2028, when I'll be 80 years old!)

PETER TANNER (Buckinghamshire) writes: Just a line to congratulate you on the nice layout and general appearance of the August issue of "BING". Jim Hayes' skeletal listing of Crosby recordings made particularly interesting reading. I note that you ask if any other club members were at the National Film Theatre for the screening of "The King Of Jazz" a few months ago. Well, I was, for one, accompanied by my American producer who is a devotee of early musicals. Among those present that evening were Geoff Milne (Decca), Chris Ellis (EMI) and Dick Sudhalter. Dick, although a journalist by profession, plays the Bixian cornet in the Anglo-American Alliance recordings. His father, Al Sudhalter, is the well known American alto player. I am sure there were many others there from the musical profession and no doubt a good percentage of Bing fans, even though his contribution was confined to a few bars in the prologue and a couple of appearances as one of the Rhythm Boys. I thought that the film stood the test of time pretty well, and was technically very advanced for its period (1929-30). The colour was extremely good, being a two-colour Technicolour process in those days. The trick work, also, was excellent, especially in the scene for the song "It Happened in Monterey". The story, such as it was, was terrible, and the over-produced "Rhapsody in Blue" sequence in very poor taste. Sorry that I didn't see you there, nor at the Vintage Record Bazaar. People should have little name labels attached to their coats on such occasions, as I know that I missed seeing a great number of those with whom I correspond but don't know by sight. I have been "on location" on the Isle of Mull just recently, with the film I am at present editing called "Madame Sin", which stars Bette Davis and Robert Wagner. It is great working with such a thoroughly professional artiste as Miss Davis.

BRENDA MILES (Surrey) writes: The contents of the August issue were full of interest as usual, and with each issue, the magazine takes on a more professional appearance. I hope that more members show interest in "The A to Z of Bing Crosby", as it must be quite a disappointment when only a few people support any venture that you propose. Since belonging to the I.C.C. I have been fortunate in obtaining the books "The Story of Bing Crosby" and "The Incredible Crosby". I first joined in 1962 at the age of 19, and now have quite a large collection of Bing's L.P.s.
(EDITOR's comment: Who is our youngest member? See elsewhere in this issue.)

EDWARD TOWLER (Kent) writes: Your editorial in the August edition of the magazine reminds me that I have not yet forwarded you my reservation for "The A to Z of Bing Crosby", and I hasten to remedy the omission forthwith! It should prove to be a very useful publication. Your efforts to improve the layout and format of "BING" are shaping up very nicely. It is always difficult to achieve this by a typewriter/duplicator process, but that you are succeeding in this direction is evident by the very attractive appearance of the August edition. I also think you are right in paying attention to smaller details such as showing the date of publication and sequence number of each edition. Such things as this, insignificant as they may be in themselves, tend to give the magazine a permanance and stability. I feel, however, that you should have a standard format for the cover. The last few editions did not even show the magazine's title on the front cover, although the August edition would seem to indicate that you have rectified this. I was extremely interested to read Peter Tanner's letter on the techniques of film sound-track recording in the May edition. After reading his expert views on this subject, I now realise that however much one may manipulate the controls, long playing records of sound-track music will never seem to sound quite right when reproduced on home equipment. I've often wondered why! It is frustrating to learn through Peter's letter that film companies are even more prone to dispose of recorded material than record companies, particularly as it is often the practice for a band or artiste to record a number of items which for various reasons are not always included in the finished picture. An example of this was provided on the H.M.V. album of the Glenn Miller band's recordings for the sound-track of the film "Sun Valley Serenade". This album contains two whole numbers - "Measure You Measure" and "The Spirit is Willing" - which were recorded at the time the picture was produced, but were omitted from the finished version of the film. One can only speculate as to how many other items of this nature, recorded for film productions, have now been lost to posterity. I must take this opportunity to say a few words in appreciation of Jim Hayes' numerical listings of Bing's English 78 releases in the last edition of "BING". This is a truly herculean effort, and Mr.Hayes deserves our gratitude for compiling such a fascinating analysis of Bing's recording career. The chronological issue list, in particular, provides remarkable testimony to the consistent appeal that Bing has had to the record buying public over the years. It is interesting to discover, for instance, that Bing's records were issued in every month during 1932, 1933, 1939 and 1941; in all but one month in 1949 and 1952; and in ten months of the years 1937, 1940, 1942, 1948 and 1950 (with that mammoth issue of 34 records in November 1948 alone!). Figures such as these illustrate, perhaps better than words can convey, the magnitude of Bing's remarkable achievement in the field of recorded entertainment. I shall look forward to further contributions by Mr.Hayes with interest. Bert Bishop, who writes well, makes a welcome addition to the pages, and the indefatigible Reg Bristo can always be relied upon to provide interesting comment. Reg has the knack in his prolific writings of making one return to the records with renewed interest, and this is a good thing. With all good wishes for the continued success of "BING" and the I.C.C.
(EDITOR's comment: I'm pleased to say that Edward has agreed to write a regular column for "BING", although I had to twist his arm a little! He has a good style which will do credit to the magazine. His letter makes sensible comment on the way in which we're handling "BING", and I echo

his opinion about the front cover, but the ball is in Reg's court for the time being. When circumstances allow, I know that he plans to improve on this aspect of the magazine, so we'll just have to wait and see what develops. The August cover, in my opinion, was very tasteful, and Reg did quite well, considering that he managed to print and post all copies of "BING" within five days of receiving my set of stencils. It was clearly a case of club members being given priority, for I was one of the last persons to receive their copy! The same morning that it arrived, I received a batch of letters from other members telling me how pleased they were with it!)

RICHARD MUIRHEAD (Scotland) writes: The present copy of "BING" is a GREAT improvement, and the layout is looking really professional. All the articles were of great interest, especially the listing supplied by Jim Hayes. This was a real boon, and I have now managed to put my collection of 78's into a correct catalogue order.

RON McCORMICK (Cheshire) writes: The "BING" magazine is wonderful! Please enrol me as a member and find enclosed £1.05 postal order.
(EDITOR's comment: Our favourite kind of letter!)

BILL WHITE (Essex) writes: I found your magazine waiting for me, along with a few more, when I returned from a short holiday in Dorset. I didn't look at it straight away, as it resembled my diabetic magazine by the way in which it was wrapped. I was very surprised upon opening it, to say the least. I sat down to have a little read, and the little read turned out to be a long read. I found the magazine so fascinating that I read it through in one go. I have read it through again since then, more slowly this time, and I found it just as interesting the second time round, so much so that I have decided to take out a subscription right away. I've been a member of the 1930's Record Society for some years....this being more my scene.... and I have corresponded with Reg fairly frequently on matters relating to early dance bands and singers, but never once have either of us brought up the subject of Bing, and yet he must be the favourite singer of both of us! However, being a collector of dance music and Le Jazz Hot, has not stopped me from buying Bing's records, and my favourites are naturally from the late 'twenties and early 'thirties. However, my prime favourite comes from a later period...."Ain't doin' bad doin' nothin'" with Joe Venuti...a great disc this. I've been trying to get the R.C.A. Camden L.P. of Bing's early days, but alas without success so far. Those Corals....will we ever get these? The book you're plugging, "The A to Z of Bing Crosby", sounds really great....please reserve a copy for me.

JOHN FINAN (Bradford, Yorks) writes: Thankyou very much for the August edition of "BING". I am happy now to own an I.C.C. club tie, and it has certainly led to some interesting conversations with people who still like Bing, and who are surprised that such an organisation exists. Good luck with your future efforts.
(EDITOR's comment: Have <u>you</u> bought the I.C.C. club tie yet? If not, there's no excuse....the address to which to write appears elsewhere in this issue.)

NORMAN TOOGOOD (Southampton) writes: Is it possible to obtain a complete list of films that Bing has appeared in, showing dates and the songs sung? Also, I wonder if you can supply me with the following information: (a) The names and dates of birth of Bing's children by his first marriage; (b) The date of death of Dixie Lee Crosby; (c) The date of his second marriage; and (d) The names and dates of birth of the children by his second marriage.
(EDITOR's comments: As I mentioned earlier, in answer to Michael Crampton's letter, I'm hoping to publish a film listing in the very near future. The answers to your questions are as follows: (a) Gary, 1933; twins Philip and Dennis, July 13, 1934; Lindsay, 1938; (b) November 1, 1952; (c) October 24, 1957; and (d) Harry Lillis, Jnr. August 8, 1958; Mary Francis, September 14, 1959; Nathaniel Patrick, October 29, 1961.)

JOHNNY JOYCE (Staffs.) writes: I found the latest issue of "BING" very good reading indeed, and would like to obtain the last four back numbers of the magazine if still available.

KEN HOYLE (Yorkshire) writes: Many thanks for the excellent new style "BING", and I wish you every success as editor. I do feel, however, that you have a very hard road to tread, inview of the fact that Bing is now very near the end of the entertainment road, and that there is very little new material coming along in the way of records, etc. The following is a true story which I hope readers will enjoy. On a recent visit to Haworth, home of the Bronte Sisters, I stopped at a cafe for a cup of tea. The peace of the cafe was suddenly disturbed when a well-known voice began to sing "Skylark", and I said to the Scottish lady who had served me, "Isn't it nice to hear the voice of Bing again?" She immediately jumped down my throat, saying, "That isn't Bing Crosby....it's Michael Holliday". Her husband had overheard this and dashed over to my table, saying, "Bing Crosby?....he couldn't lace that man's boots!" I was, of course, on the defensive but I kept cool. "I gather you are both great admirers of Michael Holliday?" I asked, and the woman replied, "Yes, he was a great friend of ours. We used to play the Northern clubs with him." Seeing that I was beginning to show interest, her husband added, "Crosby had the capitalists in the States behind him, but Michael Holliday didn't have anyone behind him". They then went on to emphasise that Holliday did not impersonate Bing, and that his voice was entirely natural. Whether or not this is true, I have no idea, but I am very suspicious when somebody tells me this. We know only too well that at one time or another, everybody has tried to impersonate Bing....I know I did so myself on one occasion! It was Christmas Day, 1940 at Ipswich. I was in the army, and being drunk, or very near to it, I sang "Sierra Sue" for them in the mess room! It was, so I was later told, a ghastly effort, and I never tried to impersonate Bing after that. From Bing, I started on Phil Harris, and was quite a success giving members of my office staff impressions, at speed, of Phil Harris singing "The Dark Town Poker Club"....always one of my favourite records!

NEVILLE JARRETT (Monmouthshire) writes: I thoroughly enjoyed the current issue of the magazine. There was a freshness about the whole thing. I hope that you won't be discouraged by the lack of interest shown in forthcoming projects.....keep plugging!
(EDITOR's comment: Glad to say that things are looking on the bright side, Neville.)

JACK DOUGAN (N.Ireland) writes: While on holiday in the Isle of Man this year, one evening provided me with a particular pleasure. My wife and I were relaxing after tea and I was searching for a good book with which to pass a few hours or so. Imagine my delight when I picked up a copy of "Readers Digest Condensed Books" which included "Call Me Lucky" by Bing. The preface reads as follows: "Autobiographies are sometimes likely to be solemn and egostistical books, but CALL ME LUCKY, Bing's refreshing story of his own life, is as funny, frank and unpretentious as the author himself. A personally conducted tour backstage in show business, it is also a warm-hearted picture of the big and beguiling Crosby family - from Bing's mother (a devout lady with a fine singing voice) to the four Crosby sons (who keep their father fully occupied with the same parential problems all the rest of us have). Casual and sunny as a May morning, CALL ME LUCKY is a spring tonic at any season!" Needless to say, the book now has pride of place in my bookcase. (With the consent of our host, of course!). Despite the present cloud hanging over Belfast, Bing fans should be happy, as his greatest musical "High Society" was screened at the "Grand Opera House", week commencing from 23rd August, and "returned by Public Demand" to the Curzon Cinema for the week commencing 6th September. I was delighted to read in the August issue of "BING" about the possibility of this film being shown on television in the near future. Recent showings of Bing's films have included "Robin And The Seven Hoods" (12th September) and "Riding High" (23rd September). Looking forward to the next issue of the magazine.

BERT DAY (London) writes: I had the greatest thrill of my life on August 21st, 1971 when I met Bing in London, and fulfilled a lifetime's ambition. He is just as I expected him to be, but looks much younger. I shall cherish

the meeting as one of the highlights of my life, for it is the moment of a lifetime to meet this great man.
(EDITOR's comment: Congratulations to Bert on his achievement....his meeting with Bing is envied by everyone reading this magazine!)

BING ON THE BOX ...a critique by BERT BISHOP

Not being a television addict as such, I only usually switch on for those programmes that I have specifically pre-arranged to view. Consequently, the chances are that I am bound to miss little snippets of Crosbyana that turn up from time to time in general feature programmes. I do make a point of thoroughly scanning the T.V. periodicals for any Bing films or shows, or shows in which he is guesting, but I fear that this has been a particularly lean period for the London area. I am aware that at least two of Bing's films have been screened in the regions - "STAGECOACH" and "RIDING HIGH" - but it is not my intention to encroach beyond my own area boundaries!

Lucky I was then to tune in on Friday the 24th of September to watch Frank Muir, the moustachioed one of that punning pair of erstwhile script-writers, Muir and Norden, presenting a new series entitled "SOUND OF LAUGHTER". It has peak viewing time of 8.30 p.m. on B.B.C.-1 and consists of a programme of vintage film clippings pre-recorded at the National Film Theatre before a 'live' audience. Frank Muir introduces each clipping with explanatory and affectionately witty comment. Although there had been one screened previously, this was the first of the series that I had seen. I had already noted that in this particular programme, subtitled, "America, America", we were to be presented with extracts from films featuring Burns and Allen; Eddie Cantor; W.C.Fields; and Robert Benchley.

Imagine my joy then, when quite unexpectedly, Frank Muir introduced, with remarks approximating to "An unlikely combination of talent....Mack Sennett, producer of the slapstick comedy and Bing Crosby who exuded a friendly laconic charm....", an extract from Bing's 1931 two-reeler "ONE MORE CHANCE". The clipping commenced in very similar vein to a sequence from "ROAD TO ZANZIBAR" where an animated marker traces a disorientated route across a map; in this instance coming to a halt in the State of Idaho. We then see Bing in a 'tin lizzy' type motor-car getting a tow from a truck of like vintage apparently belonging to some Hillbillies.

This sequence is in the best tradition of the silent 'movies' of a slightly earlier period, with Bing's car bouncing up boulderous hills and literally swinging out into mid-air around mountainous bends. "Take it easy around these curves will ya!" cries an anxious Bing, for indeed we have the added dimension of sound to enhance the action. And what sound too! For this scene is tailored to fit Bing's rendition of "I'd Climb The Highest Mountain" which for the most part he sings with the camera on him in full-face close-up. Obviously the song fits the story, leaving you in no doubt that he is bent on locating his true love. I only wish we could have seen more. This latter song is one that Bing really ought to have made a commercial recording of - but at least this was made available some while ago on the 7" I.C.C. Vol.8 L.P. which featured the songs from the epoch making Sennett 'shorts' starring Bing.

Two weeks later, as the current Radio Times had indicated, a 'clip' of Bing was again to be shown in this same programme. As luck would have it, our esteemed Editor was due to honour me with a visit on that date, the 8th October. Five hours that seemed to fly in an instant as we talked, listened to and watched the many aspects of Mr.C. With tape recorder at the ready, we settled down to view the sub-titled programme "Hawks and Doves"; Bing being described as one of the doves - in other words - on the receiving end of the slapstick.

Not one of the best in this series to date, I fear, although it was interesting to see an excerpt from Bob Hope's first film, a 1934 two reeler,

"GOING SPANISH". Bob has always said that his first film was "THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1936"....from what was shown of it, it's not surprising that he disowns the 'short'. Robert Benchley, a wittingly astute observer of human behaviour, was up to his usual slightly eccentric standard, but for me the remainder of the programme was rather disappointing. The humour of The Marx Brothers and The Ritz Brothers being unsustained even in such short sequences.

Bing, appropriately, topped the bill, having the final five minutes in an extract from "DREAM HOUSE"; another of the Mack Sennett series. In the film, Bing's girl has gone to Hollywood to become a film actress. In an involved mix up, Bing arrives at a film studio and dresses up in a costume stylishly reminiscent of the "ROAD TO MOROCCO" garb that Bob Hope wore in the harem. This was the type of 'set' that Bing intrudes upon - hence the disguise.

The sequence presented portrayed his frantic efforts to avoid a studio lion and his girl's irate mother, both of whom were on the rampage. In the event, it was his prospective mother-in-law who proved the more fearsome as poor leo found out to his cost! The sight of Bing precariously clinging to the overhead supporting structure of the studio set would have done credit to Keaton or Lloyd, but regrettably this gave him neither the time nor the breath to sing us a song. Subsequently this clip came as rather an anti-climax, a point on which we both agreed, especially as this film features, among others, two particularly good numbers, the title song, "Dream House", and one that Bing had already recorded, "It Must Be True". A nice little cameo of comedy, but somehow or other it just wasn't Bing.

It has to be accepted that this is a vintage comedy programme, and that naturally the accent will be on that aspect; but I for one will continue to 'look in' on this one in the fond hope that we may see and hear more of Bing in humour <u>and</u> song in his Mack Sennett days. Meanwhile, we must be grateful to Frank Muir, who writes his own script, film consultant Raymond Rohauer and producer Richard Evans.

Just meeting the 'copy' deadline I am happy to report that yet another clip, this time from the fifth of the six films Bing made for Sennett - "SING, BING, SING" - was presented in "SOUND OF LAUGHTER" on 22nd October. They must have heard my silent supplication, for the sequence opened with Bing, immaculately attired in straw boater, sport-coat and trousers, surreptitiously crooning "Lovable" to his fiancee (Franklin Pangborn) with whom he plans to elope. This aurally aesthetic scene is followed by pure unabashed Sennett slapstick - the crazy car-chase - started when Bing cunningly leaves a gramophone recording of himself singing to stall his fiancee's father. This shot-gun waving worthy 'blasts' the decoy causing Bing's voice to frind to an ignominious halt. "Well, it's always open season for crooners", cries a jubilant pappa! His joy is short-lived, and soon Bing and fiancee are being pursued by two Laurel-and-Hardy type private detectives who themselves are trying to avoid the attentions of their uninvited 'gorilla' passenger who is determined to 'take the wheel' of their, by now, runaway car! Altogether quite a hilarious scene and good vintage Bing.

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<u>W A N T E D</u> ! ! !

£7 paid for a MINT copy of "WHAT CHILD IS THIS", World Library Of Sacred Music L.P. WLSM-25-M. Bing Crosby and the Bonaventure Choir.
Write: THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE, 3 Old Hall Court, Great Wakering, Essex, SS3 OEN.

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TYPING ERRORS IN THIS EDITION OF "BING" (if any!)
Your Editor apologises in advance for any typographical "boobs" which may have crept into this issue! "To err is human" so they say.... truth is, I'm a useless speller!

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BING'S RECORDINGS

A JIM HAYES Survey

This series will present a cataloguers' look at some aspects of Bing's recordings.

Herewith, a complete (?) "skeletal" check list of Bing's DECCA USA "100" 78s. This series, which ran from issue 100 to 4461, was released between 1934 and 1948. (Please note: I have no knowledge of any issues numbered 251:308:390:3173:3680:3872:4407:4451).

This list is designed to assist collectors, who are collating a complete collection of Bing's DECCA USA "100" Series items. Simply underline the items already possessed, and see at a glance, which items you have, and which you still require.

A "SKELETAL" CHECK LIST OF BING'S DECCA USA "100" SERIES 78s

100	1186	2273	3098	3614
101	1201	2289	3118	3636
179	1210	2315	3133	3637
245	1234	2316	3161	3644
309	1300	2359	3162	3689
310	1375	2360	3182	3731
391	1376	2374	3257	3736
392	1451	2385	3297	3797
543	1462	2400	3298	3840
547	1483	2413	3299	3856
548	1518	2447	3300	3886
616	1554	2448	3309	3887
617	1565	2494	3321	3952
621	1616	2535	3354	3965
631	1648	2626	3388	3970
756	1649	2640	3423	3971
757	1794	2641	3450	4000
791	1819	2671	3477	4033
806	1845	2676	3540	4064
870	1874	2677	3541	4065
871	1887	2678	3542	4152
880	1888	2679	3543	4162
886	1933	2680	3554	4173
905	1934	2700	3555	4183
907	1960	2775	3565	4184
912	2001	2800	3584	4193
947	2123	2874	3590	4200
948	2147	2948	3600	4201
1044	2200	2998	3601	4249
1175	2201	2999	3602	4339
1184	2237	3024	3603	4343
1185	2257	3064	3609	4367

As stated above, the "100" Series was issued from 1934 to 1948 - unfortunately, neither I, nor anyone else, can give the exact issue date for each release.

Comments, additions, corrections will be welcomed by JIM HAYES, 161 Bowland Drive, Liverpool, L21 0JA. Please enclose a SAE, if you require a reply.

Next issue of "BING": A Cataloguers' look at Bing's English Microgrooves.

+ Jim Hayes is the compiler and publisher of an invaluable series of 78 rpm record catalogues, details of which are to be found elsewhere in this edition.

D I S C O G R A P H I C A L R E S E A R C H

BERT BISHOP writes:
Apropos your poser in "BING" No.23, page 26, as to whether Bing fluffed the line "Irregardless and respective" on the "Rhythm Boys" re-union track "Mississippi Mud - I Left My Sugar Standing In The Rain", I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this is the way Bing sings the phrase in take-3 of the 1927 version. This take was the one as issued on all the pressings at that time, e.g. HMV B4424.

The reversal of this phrase to "irrespective and regardless" appears on take-2 of the 1927 version, unissued until fairly recently on the L.P. "1927" RD-7903. As Harry Barris gives an apparently unintentional laugh at the commencement of this track, it suggests that this was considered a fluffed take, despite the fact that Bing's line is grammatically correct.

There is no such word as 'irregardless', and even if there were, the phrase "irregardless and respective" is the exact opposite of what Bing is really implying within the context of the lyric, and that is, although his 'sugar' "was so refined", despite that fact ("irrespective and regardless") he has left her "standing in the rain". Therefore, it seems to me that both the long-standing commercial recordings, 1927 take-3 and 1943, are incorrect. However, whether they are fluffs is a matter between Bing and the lyricist, in this case, Harry Barris, who adapted Kahal and Fain's song to interpolate with his own lyrics to "Mississippi Mud" (Barris, Cavanaugh).

RALPH HARDING (Editor of "Crosby Collector") writes:
We don't know why Bing sang this line in this fashion. I personally don't think he deliberately fluffed it. On the other hand, can it rightly be regarded as a "fluff". I think he just twisted the line deliberately to raise a laugh, but it went right over the heads of the audience. After all, you have to be pretty familiar with the original version to even start to appreciate that the words were transposed. It was no fluff.... I feel sure that Bing meant to sing (or rather say) "irregardless and respective" as a sort of "in" joke....but it was almost meaningless to his audience.

Apropos Bert Day's comments on "Where (or "when") the blue of the night", did you know that Bing has, on occasions, sung the following lyrics....

(a) Where the blue of the night meets the GREEN of the day

and (b) Someone waits for MIA

How's that for an interesting twist! We wrote to Bing and asked him why "Mia"? He didn't know and couldn't remember. However, it is nothing to do with Mia Farrow....that he was sure about.

Furthermore, did you know that Bing once sang "Yes, We Have No Bananas" backwards? Well, he did, as follows....

Bananas, no have we, yes,
Today bananas no have me,
etc. etc.

I am unable to tell you exactly where or when this took place, because at this stage I have no further details.

Your editor, JOHN BASSETT, writes:
I consider it worth while drawing attention to the fact that, in my opinion, Bing "fluffs" one word in the song "PUFF, THE MAGIC DRAGON" which is featured on the L.P. "Thoroughly Modern Bing".

Throughout this song, Bing repeatedly sings the title lyric line, thus:

"Puff, the magic dragon lived by the sea, and frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honolee".

However, on playing this track you will note that when he gets to the punultimate line of this two-line chorus, he sings:

"Puff, the mighty dragon lived by the sea....etc."

He then correctly sings the word 'magic' on the final repeat line. Immediately prior to this final two-line chorus, the verse goes:

"Without his life-long friend, Puff could not be brave, so Puff the mighty dragon sadly slipped into his cave".

Since this section of verse incorporates the word 'mighty', it seems more than probable that Bing was 'influenced' by its preceeding proximity. It is also worth noting that Bing almost 'loses his voice' on the words "....sadly slipped into his cave". This too, could have disturbed his concentration and contributed to the making of the considered "fluff".

Comments on this item will be welcomed.

"DISCOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH" welcomes your comments and opinions on the lesser-known aspects of Bing's commercial recordings.

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BING TO RECORD IN SOUTHAMPTON?

GORDON MARSHFIELD writes....

I have, for several months, been corresponding with a Mr.Stanley Davis of Southampton. This came about because of an article by Mr.Davis, which appeared in the local Southampton Evening Echo, a considerable time ago.

The article was all about the Church of St.Mary's, here in Southampton, and it told the story of how the song "The Bells Of St.Mary's" came to be written. It seems that the song's composers, Adams and Furber, were in Southampton in 1917, and that the sight and the sound of the church bells inspired them to write this very popular song, which of course, has been recorded by Bing.

Being a Crosby enthusiast, and a locally born man, I was naturally very interested to read this, and decided to contact Mr.Davis. Although we have yet to meet, we have exchanged several letters, and he has telephoned me on occasions. I have enclosed a copy of one of his letters.

Without going into lengthy details, Mr.Davis, as you will realise after reading his letter, is a very energetic man, devoted to his home town, and has done great work in promoting Southampton and its historical links with the past. When he last contacted me, he told me that he was hoping to get a first day postal cover issued, bearing a picture of Bing and commemorating the anniversary of the song. He is also writing a book about the local football club, which had its beginnings as the St.Mary's Football Club, and he tells me that plans are afoot for the St.Mary's Church Choir to record "The Bells Of St.Mary's" and "When The Saints Go Marching In". He went on to say how nice it would be if Bing could come to Southampton and sing the song, accompanied by the local church choir, and he has, I believe, been in touch with the Mayor of Southampton, and the Vicar of St.Mary's Church, and suggested that an invitation be extended to Bing to come to Southampton to do just this.

Without sounding too pessimistic, I somehow cannot imagine this would ever take place, although it is a wonderful idea, and something which I am sure all Crosby enthusiasts would love to have happen. However, Mr.Davis is not to be underestimated, and judging by his past accomplishments, nothing is impossible as far as he is concerned, and I would not wish to say that such a thing is impossible. Mr.Davis is a man of immense drive, and has already enlisted the help of the Mayor, Vicar and various local broadcasting personalities. He has friends in New York who are doing their utmost to assist him with his research work. I do feel that he should be given every encouragement and assistance from Crosby devotees, and if he can possibly achieve all that he has set out to accomplish, I think you will agree that it would be very good publicity for Bing, and who knows, it may even persuade the "gnomes of Decca" to release some more of his recordings!

Part of the letter received from Mr.Stanley Davis, 1 Somerset Terrace, Freemantle, Southampton, SO1 3FW.

Dear Gordon Marshfield,

Next year is the 55th Anniversary of the song, "The Bells Of St. Mary's", and after two years of research I have discovered the story behind the song, which enfolds the 125th Anniversary of the United States Maritime. The first ship called at Southamppon in 1847. This vessel was the "Washington", the first ship under the United States flag. Following the story up, the first U.S.M.S. Training School Ship, "The St.Mary's" of the New York Nautical School, which called at Southampton in 1904, was laid down as "Washington" in 1844, as a naval three-masted square rigger, and saw service in Tokyo Bay in 1854. Later, in 1874, she was handed over to the New York Training School as the first nautical training ship.

The "St.Mary's" name was taken from the little colonial town of St.Mary's (1754), Maryland, U.S.A. When the song came out in 1917, the United States Merchant Marine School, Bronx, New York, and the United States Maritime Academy, King Point, New York, adopted this song as the school's song, and the Academy's marching song.

The history of the "Saints" (Southampton Football Club), comes well into the picture, as the club began as Southampton St.Mary's F.C., and was originally connected with the church. The song was sung at the "Dell", being introduced by the late Bill Bray during the 'twenties and 'thirties, and was sung by our supporters, later being replaced by "When The Saints Go Marching In". Tying the story up with the Southampton St.Mary's F.C. (1885), and the present Southampton F.C. Ltd. (1987-), 1972 will be the 75th Anniversary of the "Saints" as a limited company.

The story is furthered by your interest, and by the visit of Bing to England earlier this year. In a newspaper clipping, I have reference to Fred Tetlow of Southampton, and Leslie Gaylor of Newport, Isle Of Wight, both of whom are Bing fans. I would like to arrange a meeting shortly, on the idea of inviting Bing to come to Southampton to sing this great song, at the Church of St.Mary's, and backed by the St.Mary's Choir. Perhaps you can inform Mr.Tetlow and Mr.Gaylor of my idea.

The oil painting of the "St.Mary's" is in the church, and I will personally show you and your fellow members this later on. We must get together soon, as I am a Bing Crosby enthusiast myself. I have received letters from the St.Mary's College, California, U.S.A., where the film was made.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) STANLEY DAVIS.

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" J O L S O N O G R A P H Y "

Barrie Anderton (English Representative of the INTERNATIONAL AL JOLSON SOCIETY) informs us that he still has four or five copies of "Jolsonography" for sale, should any I.C.C. members be interested.

Cost of the book is £15 ($50.00) and it contains 360 pages and over 130 photographs. The weight of the book is 6lbs. and postal charges are as follows: England and U.K. free; Overseas, the equivalent of 50p. All orders are sent sea (surface) mail. All remittances may be made in any form of currency, money order or cheque, etc. and should be made payable to "JOLSONOGRAPHY A/C".

To the serious Crosby enthusiast, the book is a "must", for it contains hundreds of facts relating to Bing's radio appearances with Al Jolson. Your editor has a copy of this book. Thoroughly recommended, and well-produced. Must be seen to be believed!

BARRIE ANDERTON, 14 RICHMOND WOOD ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS. ENGLAND

THE RICHARD MUIRHEAD COLUMNS

It is with great pleasure that I present my first column. I feel that on this occasion I should firstly explain a little about myself. I am 16 years of age and have been seriously collecting Bing Crosby records for about two years. In that time, I have managed to acquire a good many discs, photos (and thanks to the two invaluable publications, "BING" and "CROSBY COLLECTOR") a great deal of very interesting and accurate facts about Bing, his life, and his work. When our editor asked me to contribute a quarterly column, I jumped at the chance. I hope that my articles prove to be of interest.

The first topic of my column this month, is that of Bing's recent visit to this country. On Thursday, 5th August, "The Edinburgh Evening News" featured on its front page, under a small photo of Bing, the following item:

> "Bing Crosby arrived at Prestwick Airport today on his way to Gleneagles for a week's golf and was pleasantly surprised by the number of autograph hunters. He was surrounded by fans on arrival, and after he passed through customs he was again besieged by autograph hunters. It was fully ten minutes before he finally left the airport by car for Gleneagles.
>
> Bing, who is 67 said: "It is nice to see that people still think so highly of me. Most of my work is for American T.V. and the Scots don't have a chance to see me".
>
> Of his golfing holiday he said: "I just love to play golf in Scotland....the courses are so beautiful".

Bing certainly surprised us with his visit, although I do recall reading about a week before Bing's arrival, in 'Alley Cat' of the "New Musical Express", that Bing planned to visit Britain.

I telephoned the Gleneagles Hotel twice, but on both occasions I was told, "Mr.Crosby is not taking any calls". I felt then that my chances of speaking to Bing were practically nil. Unknown to myself, however, my mother had written to Bing at the hotel asking whether it would be possible to arrange a meeting between him and myself. Unfortunately, due to a delay in the post, Bing's reply arrived late, and I received it the day after he had left from Edinburgh Airport for London. Bing stated in his letter that he would be 'happy to greet me' at the lounge of Turnhouse Airport, prior to his departure for London. Well, that's the way the cookie crumbles! I understand, though, that a few members managed to meet Bing, and to them I say "WELL DONE"!!

During his stay in Scotland, Bing gave two excellent interviews, both of which are re-printed in this issue. I would like to thank the B.B.C. and Scotsman Publications Ltd., for their permission and assistance in allowing the texts of the two interviews to be published in "BING". I think it can be easily observed by the reception which Bing received, wherever he went, that everyone still regards him as the GREATEST - and so say all of us!!

With Christmas fast approaching, the radio waves will soon be enchanting us, once again, with Bing's unequalled "White Christmas", along with other all-time great carols sung by the maestro. Let us all make a point of sending requests to the B.B.C. at this festive season for some of Bing's Christmas masterpieces. If every member of the I.C.C. sent in only one request each, I am sure the air waves would be full of Bing's unique voice, and who else but Bing Crosby can sing Christmas songs with the sincerity and joy of the festive season, coming through in a completely genuine manner.

Let's hope that Bing is a little more prominent on T.V. this Christmas than he was last year. "Holiday Inn" would make a lot of us very happy if

it was shown, and what about a few of those "Road" films which have been very scarce on the small screen of late! B.B.C. please take note!!

Well, that's about it for this month. Let's look forward to that proposed new Christmas album from Bing. All I have left to say is, "Have Yourselves A Merry Little Christmas" and a very Happy New Year!

RICHARD MUIRHEAD

INTERVIEW WITH BING CROSBY, 9th AUGUST 1971
(published with grateful acknowledgement to the B.B.C.)

Renton Laidlaw for "Today in Scotland", an interview with Bing Crosby, who needs no introduction.

BING: Ah-a how nice you are.
Renton: May I call you Bing in the interview?
BING: You'd better, or I wouldn't know who you were talking to.
Renton: Bing, how's the golf going?
BING: Great, we're having a wonderful time up here, staying at Gleneagles and playing the Gleneagles King's and Queen's - played them both today, and we've been down to Turnberry, and to St.Andrews and then later on in the week Muirfield. Muirfield's where they're going to have the British Open next year I believe, and I want to get a look at it so I'll know what the athletes have to do to accomplish a good round around there.
Renton: The weather hasn't been very good since you arrived, but what are our Scottish courses really like?
BING: Oh they are marvellous courses. I always think like Patrick Ward Thomas says - that the golf course architects here, when they go to build a course nature's the guide rather than the servant. Over in the States it's just the other way around, they push it around and build obstacles. But here, the golf course architect takes advantage of the terrain and fits the golf course into the various roles and nuances of the terrain.
Renton: What's your handicap now Bing?
BING: I'm a seven.
Renton: Seven of a handicap.
BING: Yes, but I haven't played for about two years, until a month ago.
Renton: Tell me Bing, are we likelt to see you in any more films? We saw you on television here in Britain not very long ago, on the David Frost show, singing as well as ever.
BING: Oh you're kind (chuckle). I can't sing as well as I used to but I can carry a tune and get by.
Renton: Are you over here purely for pleasure or is there something else?
BING: No. I have a little business in London. I'm talking to some people over there about a new film technique that I've interested myself in. It's called electro-vision. We made two films, one called "San Francisco Experience", and one called "Hawaii Experience". These are kind of travelogues, multi-image screen, about 32 projectors run by computer, 180 degree screen, it's for an audience involvement film, with a sound track that's effective. We use animation, still pictures, movie film, a little bit of everything.
Renton: Is there a possibility then that this type of film will come to Britain?
BING: That's my plan. I've talked to people in London about the possibility of doing a "London Experience". You have to have it, it really should be, in an area where there is a tourist flow, you know a transit flow - people want to drop in for 38, 40 minutes, and see something that is entertaining and then of course there are so many different things around London, you

couldn't possibly encompass all these things in a 38 minute show. But there might be some part of London, or maybe Brighton, something colourful - maybe Gleneagles or Scotland, or you don't know what.

Renton: But of course we would certainly like Scotland to be involved in any British Experience you produced on film. Well, Bing, it has been very pleasant to see you here in Scotland. Thank you.

BING: Thank you Renton. I've enjoyed myself, and I'm grateful to the people in Scotland who have been so nice to me through these long years and every time I come here they're always kind and considerate and hospitable. I love the Scots.

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THE CRAMPTON COLUMNS

Quarterly Report from MICHAEL CRAMPTON

THE I.C.C. 21st ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND MEETING, held in Leeds, Sunday, 3rd October, 1971.

Bing Crosby created a little more than the usual interest on the occasion of the 7th annual meeting of the club in Leeds, Sunday, 3rd October, for on this day we not only celebrated our annual get-together but also the 21st anniversary of the club's founding. I made a plea in the last issue of "BING" for a good attendance on this day, and a good one we certainly got, not necessarily in terms of numbers (although 31 people attended) but we had representation from all parts of the United Kingdom.

James Dineen attended for the first time and came all the way from Glasgow. Reg journeyed from Wales, Fred journeyed from Birmingham, and Kevin came from Leeds. Also from Leeds were Mrs.Mary McNamara and her friend, and first-time attenders Mary and Jim Throp. I would like to single out Mary and Jim since they were the people who 'introduced' me to Bing and his records many years ago. I'm very grateful that they did, and they will be taking the magazine from now on. They are both very welcome to the club. Also, from my own town, there were of course Mrs.Crampton (otherwise known as Mum), who was taking a rest from providing the necessaries in terms of food and drink, and my girlfriend Judy, who I think enjoyed the food more than Bing!! Arnold and Lilian Pope came from Manchester; Frank and Irene Ashurst from Wigan; Ken Hoyle from Harrowgate (it was Ken's suggestion that we should have the hotel for the venue); Mr.and Mrs.Frank Briggs from Hull; Mr.and Mrs.Alf Farrow and their colleague Vic Gilmore, also from Hull; John Dobson from London; Tommy Smith from Lothersdale; George Smith and Jack Feather from Keighley; Charlie Tupper from Surrey; Ralph Harding from London; Frank Murphy, John Maughan, Cyril Dumcombe and Ken Robinson from Newcastle.

James Dineen, bursting with knowledge of Bing's films, brought several hundred feet of Bing on 8 mm movie for the highlight of this year's events. The movie featured Bing first of all in two Mack Sennett shorts, "Sing, Bing, Sing" and "Blue Of The Night", then followed a film showing him at Cockermouth and recently at Gleneagles golf club. This was in colour, and James had patiently followed Bing along the golf course at Gleneagles and in the hotel at Cockermouth to bring us some very up-to-date shots. Bing showed no signs of dis-pleasure at being followed, and smiled his approval at James on several shots. A private showing of the movies was specially arranged by James for the benefit of Mick Drury and Jean who called in on Sunday morning. Also present at this preview were Ralph Harding and Charlie Tupper. I am told that on the journey to Leeds, the thick fog resulted in Ralph and Charlie driving along the wrong carriage way on the motorway! Only Ralph could do that! James and I moved the necessary film equipment and recorders along to the Griffin Hotel in time for the arrival of the first guests at around 3 p.m. John Dobson and the Ashurst's were the first to arrive.

We were allocated two rooms, one of which contained a dance floor and a PA system through which we played the tape recorder and listened to Bing's

voice on eight 12" speakers....it sounded superb! The other room was carpeted and layed out as if for a conference of considerable importance, and I found myself taking the chair with water glasses and chairman's pad et all. Since this was, in a very real sense, a momentous occasion in the club's history, I felt that I should have some strong support at the 'top' table and so at very short notice I called upon Reg and Frank for their support, backed up by the editor of our friendly rival magazine, Ralph Harding. Ralph recalled the origin of the word "Crosbyana" and related his association with the club as far back as the late 1940's. Both Reg and Frank made good speaches. To conclude the formal part of the meeting, I read out the messages from, first of all, our Hon.President Bing Crosby, who unfortunately could not get a tape machine in time to record a spoken message, but he extended his best wishes for the occasion via a letter, as reprinted by John elsewhere in the magazine. We are very grateful for your continued support, Bing.

There were messages from our Publicity Officer, Bob Roberts and his wife Vera, also Les Gaylor, and our Editor, John Bassett. Johnny Jones and Ninian Faichney sent tape messages which were well received. Ninian, incidentally, was responsible for the printing of the souvenir tickets for the dinner and we record our thanks to him for his work. Ninian brought laughter to the meeting with recollections of his visit to Gleneagles to meet Bing for the first time. He parked his 'old' AJS motor bike amongst the Rolls and American cars in the great drive-way of the hotel! He was not turned away, but was treated like royalty!

After the greetings, the room was re-arranged as informally as possible so that we could listen to Bing on tape in recordings from the 1930's, and interchange chat about our favourite star. This lasted until 5 p.m. and then we took our places for dinner in another part of the building. During the course of the meal, Fred Reynolds proposed a toast to Bing which was warmly accepted. Following the meal we were entertained with James' films as previously described, and these brought spontaneous applause. James has a considerable memory for Bing's films and I am sure that we will see and hear more of him on future occasions. A further highlight came in the form of a tape from Mick Drury, who recalled with the aid of two tape recorders, some voices from the past. We heard Michael Holliday, Stan White and the late, beloved Les Pythian. Mick explained that he was unable to attend the dinner because he didn't have a new suit! Thanks, Mick, for your fine efforts in producing this tape. Ralph Harding had some oil paintings by Coram of Bing on display, and the room was decorated with L.P. sleeves. On tape we heard Bing's first radio broadcast (1931) and some music from the Kraft shows to round off the evening. All the entertainment of course was interspersed with chatter and conversation about all manner of things....not necessarily Bing! Ask Ralph!

With regret, the tape specially airmailed by Keith Hyde from Australia did not arrive on time, but anticipation of its arrival reminded me to record Ausie members' greetings for the day. Keith, as anticipated, expressed his sincerest best wishes for the meeting and recalled his happy association with us over the years.

It was a happy day, full of interest, nostalgia, reminiscences and anecdotes, and I'm grateful to all who took part. Thanks, also, to those who helped to make this an historic occasion. Especially, I'm grateful to the man who made it all possible - BING CROSBY.

Bing Crosby. September 8, 1971

Dear Michael,

Having just returned from Northern California I will not be near a tape machine until the last of this month - too late except for this message by mail. The new set up for the Circle sounds quite promising, and I fully appreciate your continued support. They are after me to do a record date soon, new numbers I think. And we will tape our annual Christmas TV show next month. Golf on Scotland's beautiful courses filled two weeks of my vacation. I did a job in London, and went on to Munich to see about tickets for the Olympic games. Then to Pittsburgh to sign papers as a director of the Pirates. They head their division of the league, and may have a good chance at the championship, which comes off in October.

Please give my best to all. Sincerely, BING.

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SINGING GOLF'S PRAISES - CROSBY STYLE

By JOHN GIBSON

(Taken from "Evening News" Scotsman Publications, 10 Aug 1971)

It had been a long, thoroughly enjoyable day for Crosby - his Utopia - golfing from eight in the morning. Now it was pushing five and, as he negotiated the revolving doors of the Gleneagles Hotel you could have told it was Bing a mile off, even in silhouette only....the snappy white lightweight hat, angled off his fore head, the long, thin stemmed pipe clamped firmly between teeth ready to break into that ready smile. He'd been off on the road,...not to Singapore or Zanzibar or Morocco, but to St.Andrews and back. He needs golf like some people need insulin.

In the foyer he collected the air mail editions of New York's newspapers and exchanged pleasantries with the assistant at the kiosk like she was Grace Kelly or Dorothy Lamour. "Too many people in there", he said, glancing into the lounge. We settled for a couple of random chairs in an endless corridor. Crosby seemed relieved to take the weight off his feet. Not that he carried too much of it. A deep tanned but spare frame, conditioned by the game he's crossed an ocean to play.

When Bing sings these days it's not so much in a recording or T.V. studio, it's the praises of golf. "I'm grateful to golf and I can only compare it to fly-fishing and there's more solitude about that. With golf you must leave your troubles, thoughts and frustrations behind you. You concentrate on what's going on out there, nothing else".

Crosby is combining a week of golfing in Scotland with business interests. "We run something called 'Electravision' which is a multimedia screen treatment of documentary films, animation films and so on. There's audience involvement and we've got it going in San Francisco, Hawaii and Montreal. We want to see if it will work in London".

One gets the impression that this is just an excuse to allow him to come over here and play our courses, that it's just another little sideline along with the radio stations, the oil wells, the property and so on which keeps his business brains alive. "I don't make pictures any more. There was talk about a script for Bob Hope, Jackie Gleason and I, but I saw the script and didn't like it. It's just T.V. now. I do 15 or 16 shows a year and that's all I need. Last year I did three specials of my own and I did appearances for Dean Martin, Flip Wilson, Carol Burnett and Andy Williams. I do several sports shows on shooting and fishing and I run a two day tournament of golf that's televised".

I thought we don't see enough of him in Britain. "Somebody was telling me that they see more of me on T.V. in England than they do here in Scotland. Apparently they've seen five shows in the past few months and only one up here. I've nothing to do with how they schedule them".

We can go on for months without hearing a new note of Crosby's on record. With more than 250 million of his records sold, ("I never count them"), he could be excused for being a little blase about popping into the recording studio. "I make an album now and then. In fact when I get back to the States we'll be making a new one for Christmas. All new material....and 'White Christmas' won't be on it".

Was he happiest with a Dixie-style backing, or strings, or a big, brassy band? "Nothing in particular. It all goes according to the material I happen to be singing but I've been lucky to have so many good arrangers, like John Scott Trotter, Victor Young and others. And Billy May always tries to do something unusual".

And how about today's songwriters? "Yes, there are songs I wish I'd been first to put on record. It happens all the time. I can think off hand of 'Close To You', and 'By The Time I Get To Pheonix'. In a lighter vein, 'Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head", was a very ingenious number. I like Bacharach and Simon and Garfunkel and Jimmy Webb. They're writing some great things".

With three children (to his second wife Kathy), about the house in San Francisco, is it all Lennon and McCartney and beat and progressive music that fills the house? "No, I guess we don't have much going on in our house. But Harry - he's 13 - has some of his dad's love of music. He plays guitar and piano. Mainly blues".

After 50 fantastic years in the business, Crosby obviously is taking it easy. You might say he always did. But thankfully he never talks about retirement. Louis Armstrong's gone. Sinatra says he's finished, though nobody believes. What happens when there's no more Frank; though, and no more Bing? Who's going to replace the giants?

"Well, there'll never be another Louis - he was unique. He had true genius, and Sinatra's a tremendous entertainer. He's worked awfully hard and lately he's had some trouble with his hand, a circulation thing, but he's too restless to sit around".

About himself, Crosby was non-commital. The pipe was out, ("Five pipes a day and a cigar after dinner"), but it was clenched firmly between his teeth and he confessed his big mental problem: "I must get a better putting stroke. I'm jamming it out a little bit. It may sound trivial but that's what's occupying my mind right now".

Trivial, perhaps....but Bing still swings at 67 and the whole world of good sane music is happy.

(Above article supplied by RICHARD MUIRHEAD who commences his own series of articles in this edition of "BING".)

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* OF INTEREST TO THE BING BUYER.... * Now available in the shops:
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DUKE ELLINGTON "MASTERPIECES" (1928-1930)

French RCA-Victor L.P. 730.576

This new album, although not generally available in the local record shop, can be obtained in the large specialist stores such as HIS MASTER'S VOICE, Oxford Street, London. The record contains 16 tracks, one of which is the 1930 recording of "Three Little Words" featuring the Rhythm Boys.

BING CROSBY/ROSEMARY CLOONEY: "RENDEZVOUS"

RCA Stereo-8 Tape Cassette. C8S 1067

This features 10 tracks, as taken from the RCA-International L.P. of the same name. The carton picture is a smaller reproduction of the L.P. cover, with the exception of the titles featured in the top left-hand corner, and the tape appears to be of Spanish origin. Very expensive - nearly £3 - and only for the serious collector of everything and anything connected with Bing! In order to accommodate the title "On A Slow Boat To China", RCA have divided it into two parts!

"FILMS AND FILMING" Magazine

October 1971 issue. Price 35p. Includes 16 pages under the heading "Thanks For The Memory". 32 photographs from the golden era of Hollywood musicals, two of which are of Bing....namely, scenes from "Mississippi" (1935) and "Road to Zanzibar" (1941). Part two of the series is promised for next month (November) so make sure you get a copy when it comes out.

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* IN SEARCH OF THE "BING CROSBY" TULIP * (See page 17, Issue 23, Aug.1971)
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Having thumbed through umpteen flower catalogues, your editor has still been unable to find a photograph of a "Bing Crosby" tulip for his scrapbook, but he was delighted to discover a rose by the name of "White Christmas" on page 11 of a catalogue entitled "Fragrant Roses by Andersons of Aberdeen".

"THE A TO Z OF BING CROSBY" — IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

This is the last opportunity for all members of the International Crosby Circle, and readers of "Gunn Report" and "Crosby Collector" to reserve a copy of our publication "THE A TO Z OF BING CROSBY". Following the appearance of this month's issue of "BING", all advertisements for this project will be withdrawn and printing will commence. There will be a limited printing only, to cover all reservations received up to, and including December 1971. Copies are likely to be numbered by hand, and it will be virtually impossible for any interested applicant to obtain a copy once all copies have been allocated to those members on our reservation list.

If you haven't done so already, this is your last chance to order one or more copies of this publication, but act now. Read the following advertisement, and then order your copy by writing to John Bassett, 3 Old Hall Court, Great Wakering, Essex, SS3 OEN.

Send no money until notified. An announcement of the exact price will be made in "BING", "Gunn Report" and "Crosby Collector", following which, all members will be invited to send in their remittance. Copies will then be despatched at the earliest opportunity.

"THE A TO Z OF BING CROSBY", shortly to be published by the I.C.C., is an alphabetical listing of every commercially issued title by Bing. It lists every song (including variant 'takes'), narrated items, and dramatized stories. Each item is printed in full, complete with title extensions, alternate titles, translations, and where justified, explanatory data. Apart from stating the year of recording, all musical and vocal accompaniment is shown against each title or item. Every featured musician and vocal artiste or chorus is also indexed separately, comprising some 280 entries in these two sections alone. The main title listing accounts for over 1,800 entries. Ample space is provided for readers' personal record collection details, opposite each entry. RESERVE NOW. LIMITED PRINTING ONLY. Send no money until notified.

Compiled by A.S.Bishop and J.D.Bassett. Published by the International Crosby Circle.

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THE I.C.C. CLUB TIE

Of the finest possible quality, the I.C.C. Club Tie is in navy blue and bears the special emblem of the International Crosby Circle. Many members, including your editor, already own one of these ties, so don't delay!....write at once to Mr.Ron Baxter, "The Badge Centre", 24 Ropergate, Pontefract, Yorks. (Telephone: 2351). Price of the tie is 80p. Please add 5p for postage.

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THE GUNN REPORT - Many hundreds of 78's and occasional L.P.'s for sale or auction every month, including Jazz, Dance Bands, Brass Bands, Personality, Vocal, Light Orchestral, etc. In addition, there are articles, comment, information and advice - all presented in an inimitable and lighthearted style. 90p for 12 issues. 45p for 6 issues (Inland) or accept a FREE SAMPLE COPY from:

JOHN GUNN,
15 LYNTON ROAD,
HADLEIGH,
BENFLEET,
ESSEX.

(Highly recommended by the I.C.C. Please mention "BING" magazine when writing to John)

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LOOKING BACK

Members' recollections of their early interest in the voice of BING CROSBY.

A new series in which all members are invited to put pen to paper and recall how they first became interested in collecting Crosby records. The Editor will be pleased to receive suggestions for a more suitable title for this series ... if it's the title of one of Bing's records, so much the better!

This month, BILL WHITE (Essex) and NORMAN TOOGOOD (Southampton) have kindly contributed their memories for publication in the magazine.

Bill writes:
I have been collecting Bing's records for around 30 years, but I still know very little about him compared with some or probably most of your readers. It was around 1940 that a guitar-playing friend of mine started to buy Crosby discs, or rather, asked me to buy them for him! You see, as a boy he had spent most of his life in hospital, and had never learned to read or write. Strangely enough, he knew the title of each record before it was played. I suppose the label and wording formed a kind of picture in his mind. In those days, new records were hard to get, so we bought most of them from second-hand shops and such-like. Of course, by doing this, we came across a few duplicates, and that is when I started to collect them. There was one shop, however, where we could obtain new records, namely the "Busy Bee" in Leyton. I recall that there was a little humpty back fellow who worked there called Charlie, who seemed to know all there was about the record business....no doubt he had been in the trade most, if not all, of his working life. This was during the war, of course, and as it progressed , records became harder to get, like everything else in those days. There came a time when new records could be obtained only by handing in an old record, for the purpose of re-pressing, I believe. I can't exactly recall what they were used for, but not all of them were suitable for the purpose. Therefore, Charlie had quite a large stock of second-hand discs on hand, and, knowing of our needs, used to keep them to one side for us to sort through. I hate to think now that gems we might have discarded in our ignorance! I might add that my main interest in those days was Le Jazz Hot and dance bands, etc. didn't get much of a look in. The only Bing records bought were those with his name on the label. It wasn't until I came out of the army that I started buying Whiteman, Lanin, Dorsey Brothers, etc. that had Crosby vocals. But to be truthful, it wasn't because of Bing that I bought the records, although I was always delighted with his singing. Alas, over the years, most of the records were disposed of for various reasons, but mainly, I think, because I needed the cash! However, today my collection of 78's is building up quite nicely, and I have upmost of 3,000, very few of which are of Bing....approximately 200 titles to be exact. Various titles on L.P.'s and tapes double this figure, nevertheless, and with more being added fairly regularly, the situation should soon improve!

Norman writes:
I first heard Bing on the wireless set at about the time I left school, in 1932. At once, he became my favourite singer. That was 39 years ago, and in my opinion, Bing has remained at Number One position ever since. At home, we had an old tin-horn gramophone together with a pile of old records that had been given to us by my grandmother. I longed to possess some discs by this sensational singer I had taken a liking to, but at that time it was impossible....my family, in keeping with many in those sad, depressive 30's, were very poor. I was 14 and at work, but my earnings were no more than five shillings a week. Such luxuries as records were out of the question, and I had to rely on hearing Bing on the wireless - that was when we could afford the H.T. batteries! (We had no electricity in those days). Late in 1935, I joined the Territorial Army, and in the following year I returned from summer camp with a little money in my pocket. It wasn't much, but I had my heart set on buying a Bing record. I hurried to the British Home Stores where there was a display of records, but I could only afford one,

and there were at least 20 on the display stand! It took me all of half an hour to make up my mind....I wanted them all! I settled for a Brunswick disc with "Lovely lady" on one side, backed by "The touch of your lips". I was cock-a-hoop! I ground out this record on the old gramophone until I knew the words of each song by heart....forwards, backwards and sideways....and my family were heartily sick of hearing it! It was shortly after this that I had a stroke of luck. Browsing through a pile of records outside a second-hand shop - of which we had more than enough in those days - I discovered Bing's "Many Happy Returns of the day" - price 6d. This was luck indeed, for I had been looking for Sandy Powell records who was the favourite of my mother at that time.

For the next three years, second-hand shops became my main source of supply. I obtained several discs of the "Rhythm Boys" this way, and I also bought new ones whenever I could afford them. This was not often, because, even in 1939, I was earning only 15/- a week. Came the war. I had now built up a collection of over 40 Bing records. With the expected bombing, I became fearful for the safety of my records, so I put them in the safe keeping of my girl friend, who lived just outside the city, where I felt they would stand more chance of survival. My own home was too near to the city centre. However, in 1940, Hitler had other ideas. His bombs flattened my girl friend's home - and my records. Fortunately, nobody was hurt in the incident, but this did not lessen the bitterness I felt at the loss of my prized records.

During the war, Bing turned out many fine records, but I was in no position to purchase them. Finance was not the snag....I just happened to be busy in other matters which took me across North Africa, through Italy, and across Europe.

I left the army in 1947, and at once attempted to build up another collection of Bing. Over the following five years or so, I managed to acquire about 70 records. But came another disaster! In 1953, I loaned a friend of mine about 30 of the discs, and on his way home with them, his car was involved in an accident. He was unhurt - but most of my records were smashed! I tried hard to replace them, but many of them I was never able to find again. In the early '60's, I was set back still further by illness and hard times, and it was only last year, 1970, that I decided to go ahead once again and see what I could collect before it was too late. I have found it very difficult! To date, I can boast a total of 70 once again, including L.P.'s. Of all the Bing discs I lost during the war, the one I most bitterly regret the loss of was an early recording of Paul Whiteman's, featuring the "Rhythm Boys" singing "That's my weakness now" and "My pet". I was never able to acquire another copy, and although I have several L.P.'s covering the Whiteman period, these two tracks are not included. I have feelers out in all directions for Bing discs, and a couple of local record shops are doing all they can to help me.

One of my greatest ambitions in life is to meet the great man himself. But I've never had that kind of luck!

(EDITOR's comment: My grateful thanks to Bill and Norman for their very interesting accounts of the good (and bad) times in their search for material by Bing. Now it's <u>your</u> turn....let us hear about those early days of record collecting.)

BING SPONSORS THOSE OVER 60's Snippet from "Competitor's Journal", dated September 18th, 1971.

Bing Crosby is anxious to provide a golf trophy for competition among veteran golfers at St.Andrews, the Scots holiday town that is recognised as the world's home of golf. He wants it to be competed for by golfers of 60 years of age and over. A meeting of local golf clubs will be called to draw up conditions for the contest. They will then be submitted to Bing for his approval. Bing himself plans to fly to St.Andrews to play in the first competition. He will be eligible because he is a member of the Royal and

Ancient Golf Club at St.Andrews. Bing recently visited St.Andrews during a golfing holiday in Scotland.

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* THE LAST ROUND-UP * ...from the Editorial Chair
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FORTHCOMING EVENT

The VINTAGE RECORD BAZAAR, the popular venue for record collectors, is to become a twice-yearly event, as a result of the huge success of previous bazaars. The next one is planned for Saturday 4th March, 1972, and will be held in St.Silas Hall, Penton Street, Islington. All being well, your editor will be somewhere amongst the crowd, sorting through a box of Bings and wearing the club tie! Make sure you are similarly attired if you're planning to come along, otherwise I won't know who I'm rubbing shoulders with! Peter Tanner's idea of wearing name labels ought to put into practice, as so often we go along to events such as this, only to discover afterwards that someone we know very well (by postal communication only) was also in attendance. John Gunn hopes to have a stall there in March, so you'll be able to meet him as well!

PRE-CHRISTMAS "BING"

It has been suggested that our "pre-Christmas" edition of "BING" ought to appear in December instead of November. The contents of such an issue could then be of a seasonal nature in keeping with the time of the year, whereas a Christmas-orientated November issue not only appears out of place, but tends to be read and forgotten long before the Christmas festivities have properly begun. Whilst your editor is in complete agreement with this suggestion, the final decision on such a matter rests with Reg, whose task it is to duplicate and post the magazine. In order to maintain an interval of two months between the appearance of each issue, such a change would necessitate the alteration of the remaining three publication months, in which case, "BING" would appear in March, June, September and December. Members views (and those of Reg) will be welcomed.

"I LOVE YOU WHOEVER YOU ARE"

A good title for this paragraph! - A special word of thanks goes to the member who sent me half-a-dozen copies of "Picturegoer" magazine. Unfortunately, he omitted to include his name and address inside the parcel, therefore I was unable to thank him personally.

"ONE SWEET LETTER FROM YOU"

They've been arriving at my address in their dozens! Keep 'em coming! I've said it before, and I'll say it again....readers' letters add to the attraction of a club magazine. Have you written yet?

"THE A TO Z OF BING CROSBY"

Your last opportunity to reserve a copy of this brand new I.C.C. publication! Do so now to avoid any disappointment. All the top Bing collectors in this country have reserved a copy, so make sure you don't miss out! I have been informed by Bert Bishop that he is arranging to send copies over to Bing and Larry with the compliments of the International Crosby Circle. An attractive cover has been designed for the project, and it goes without saying that the "A TO Z" will prove to be invaluable to every collector in search of an easy way to index his record collection. Ensure that your name is included in our reservation file before mid-December!

That's all, folks! A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!

Best Wishes!
JOHN BASSETT

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CARRY ON BING . . .

BING'S 45th ANNIVERSARY IN SHOW-BUSINESS, 18th OCTOBER, 1971.

(From: "The Daily Mail", 18/10/71)

BING CROSBY is throwing a huge champagne celebration today. But his 45th anniversary in show business will probably not get a mention at the party. Typically, he's found an excuse to dodge the limelight: he's celebrating because the Pittsburgh Pirates are in the baseball World Series, and he owns 10 per cent of the team. "Well, why should anybody want to toast me? My talent lies in singing only a few little songs. I'm not an electrifying performer like those Pirates. All they'll ever say about old Bing was - he could carry a tune."

But Bing's tune-carrying has sold 300,650,000 records - more than any other performer in history. "I've been lucky," he says. "Exceptionally lucky".

At the age of 67, Bing Crosby still works, still plays golf, still sings - he's just released his 15th album, "A TIME TO BE JOLLY" - a collection of Christmas songs. "The voice doesn't sound so good these days", he says. "We had to put down some of those tracks two or three times".

"I don't work so hard as I used to. I limit it to 65 hours a year. I've given up movies. Well, if they didn't get sick of me during the first 60 I sure ain't going to give them the chance now. I guess I lasted so long because of the lyrics I sang. I was fortunate. I sang lyrics which meant something".

Those 'lyrics' won Bing three platinum records (1½ million sales) and 27 gold records (1 million) with his favourite 'White Christmas' at 6½ million, still the all-time favourite.

When he's not fishing, hunting or duck-shooting with his three youngsters, Harry (12), Mary (11), and Nathaniel (9), by his second wife, Katherine (37), he's on the golf course. He's got a handicap of two. "Don't forget to mention the Bing Crosby golf tournament", he says. "I'm still trying to win my own prize of £105,000. But those other pros are too good for me".

Bing's first wife, Dixie, died in 1957, and left him the four now grown-up Crosby boys.

Besides his 10 per cent in the Pirates, and a half interest in three thoroughbred race-horses, Bing's investments in oil, banks, a TV production company, fruit company, and stocks, total around £38 million.

"Life's been good to me", he says, "I didn't deserve everything I got". Will he ever quit crooning? "I keep telling myself I will. But while I can still hum a tune, why not? That's all I was ever good for".

45th ANNIVERSARY 'TRIBUTE' FROM MICHAEL PARKINSON, 7 p.m. Radio-2, 18/10/71.

"Today in America, Bing Crosby is throwing a huge champagne celebration party where he claims to be celebrating the fact that a baseball team, The Pittsburgh Pirates", of which he owns 10 per cent, is in the World Series. But he doesn't mention the fact that this week marks Crosby's 45th anniversary in show business, and he says: "Why should anyone want to toast me? My talent lies in singing only a few little songs. I was fortunate; I sang lyrics which meant something". Well, he could be right. Here he is with a lovely old song and a splendid lyric from his golden years. Crosby wrapping his velvet tonsils around a number which will forever be associated, ironically enough, with his old mate, old shovel-nose, Mr.Bob Hope". "
(There followed the 1956 recording of "Thanks For The Memory".)

RALPH HARDING INTERVIEW - "TODAY" PROGRAMME, Radio-4, 18/10/71.

Ralph Harding was interviewed on the "Today" programme - a five minute spot taken from an original interview lasting half an hour. Two important items were retained for the extract, firstly "I've Got The Girl", made exactly 45 years ago, and secondly, the blow-up "We're A Couple Of Soldiers". This is the first time that a recorded blow-up of Bing has ever been aired over the B.B.C

A FURTHER LOOK AT THE CROSBY SCENE

Rev. NEVILLE JARRETT

...from a beginner's point of view.

Before I begin this second small piece for "BING" magazine, I must say that I was surprised that our Editor, John Bassett, allowed my first article to enter print, into what is now becoming a magazine of force in the world of Bing Crosby. For who is to say what our efforts will achieve? In the first article I took a look at "Bing the man" as he appears to us, his fans, and the entertainment world of which he is supreme. Now I feel it is only right and proper to add some comment regarding his efforts of recent months. During the past few months, we have had some surprises....both pleasant and sad. We have seen Bing on the screen, in "Birth Of The Blues", "Stagecoach", and in the shows of David Frost and Arte Johnson. He has also been featured in the BBC radio series, "Starsound", in which Sean Kelly has brought Bing to the fore. One such programme, on 24th July, concentrated on Louis Armstrong, and mention was made of the 1938 film "Pennies From Heaven" and the 1956 "High Society" in which they teamed. The sad feature, of course, was the passing of Louis Armstrong, and this has surely saddened us all. The news of his death came to me whilst I was attending a Ministers summer school at Aberystwyth. As I was browsing through a rack of various L.P.'s in a second-hand shop recently, I came across an L.P. devoted to the work of the World Refugee Organisation, entitled "All Star Festival" in which Bing joins Louis Armstrong for a rendition of "Lazy River". The L.P. was a very good find, particularly in these days wher Bing discs are few and far between.

My collection of Bing L.P.'s now numbers about 36, mainly consisting of the "Ace Of Hearts" issues for which Decca have tc be praised. The "Coral" label, again a Decca release, certainly sounds interesting, but where are those promised five L.P.'s of Bing's 78 rpm re-issues? I understand that they will be issued at the end of the year. We need the 'patience of Job' to coin a phrase! You can imagine my delight at acquiring the Longines set of "Bing Crosby's Treasury". Apart from "Thoroughly Modern Bing" and "Hey Jude/Hey Bing!", the Longines set was most welcome, particularly as it was recorded during the same period. Dave Carey of "The Swing Shop", Streatham, London, is to be thanked for the help he has given to collectors with albums such as "The Jazzin' Bing Crosby" and "The Victorious Bix", both of which are in my collection. The RCA-Camden label recently gave us "The Young Bing Crosby"....a re-issue, but nonetheless welcome. I would like to see more re-issues, but I am being selfish here, as I missed out on quite a lot of the earlier albums. The "Bing's Hollywood" set and the "Bing's Musical Autobiography" set could very well be issued on the "Coral" label. Bing's vocal efforts of recent months prove exclusively that he is far from finished. I would like to see an album of songs devoted to the late and great Al Jolson, an album of "Hollywood Palace" songs, and so on. One could go on, but it's largely up to Bing, isn't it? However, we have to be grateful for his television appearances. They have enriched us all and have been the means of keeping entertainment at a very high level. So may he reign! Bing is reported to have said that he does not intend making any more films....so much for the long-awaited film about horse-racing in Northern Ireland, in which he was about to emerge on the screen once again in one of his most famous roles - that of a priest. Let us hope, anyhow, that the T.V. film "Dr.Cook's Garden" gets a showing on our screens before long. It will be strange seeing Bing playing the part of a murderer! And now a plea to BBC and/or ITV....is there a possibility of seeing some of the "Hollywood Palace" shows? Bing is still the King of the entertainment world.

(EDITOR'S comment: My apologies to Neville for not including his article in the contents of this issue. At the moment, I am still 'learning the art' of assembling a magazine, and the lesson I have yet to be taught is "don't type the contents page until all the articles are in hand"!! It won't happen again!)

WHEN ROY FOX EMPLOYED THE RHYTHM BOYS

by EDWARD TOWLER

In "Big Band Sound" (9.00 p.m., Radio-2) on the 19th October, Alan Dell devoted half of his hour-long programme to an interview with legendary bandleader Roy Fox. During the course of this highly interesting feature, Mr.Fox spoke freely of his earlier days in the United States, and revealed that in 1929 he was playing trumpet in Gus Arnheim's orchestra at the Coconut Grove.

The following year he was appointed Musical Director for one of the film studios, and he related how he used to provide entertainment for many of the lavish parties which Hollywood's film stars and celebrities used to arrange at that time. Amongst the artistes he engaged, Mr.Fox disclosed, were Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys! They were working with Whiteman on "King Of Jazz" at the time and "I used to pay them 50 dollars for a night's work", said Mr.Fox, which prompted the remark from Alan Dell that one wouldn't be able to engage Bing Crosby at that price today! This disclosure is obviously of great interest. It provides us with one more snippet of information relating to Bing Crosby's eventful career that is possibly not widely known.

In a fascinating programme, Mr.Fox went on to talk of his engagement with the Abe Lyman Orchestra, of his visit to this country and of his English bands and singers, and provided us with a most nostalgic half-hour's entertainment. One's only criticism of the programme is that Alan Dell chose to interlace Mr.Fox's commentary with recordings from currently available long playing albums by the Fox orchestra, which most admirers of this fine bandleader must already possess. Surely, here was a golden opportunity to play some of the more rare 78's of the band, and one can only regret Mr.Dell's lack of enterprise in this respect. The programme demonstrated too just how interesting and knowledgable so many of these bandleaders and artistes of the golden era can be - and how sad has been the B.B.C.'s neglect of them.

STOP PRESS! New release from "CROSBYANA COLLECTORS' LIBRARY"

Latest long-playing album from the Australian based Crosbyana Collectors' Library is an L.P. entitled, "BING AND BUDDY....COLE, THAT IS". This non-commercial album contains 16 tracks, which to my knowledge have been previously un-issued on microgroove. The titles are:-

Avalon Town	Sunday, That One Day
They Didn't Believe Me	Little Bird
My How The Time Goes By	I Almost Lost My Mind
Don't Blame Me	I'll Remember Today
How About You?	Heartaches By The Number
Dark Moon	I'm A Fool To Care
Ukelele Lady	Catch A Falling Star
Surprise	Waiting For The Evening Mail

Sleeve notes are as follows:-
In 1953 BING CROSBY combined with a rhythm group led by pianist and organist Buddy Cole, and at recording sessions over the next five years they recorded about 300 songs. During this time Bing was joined by Rosemary Clooney in a series of vocal duets. The musical arrangements, some of them being merely brief "head" arrangements, were provided by Buddy Cole and were recorded on a basic track with just rhythm accompaniment, to which Buddy later added other special effects. The songs recorded were the popular hits of the time, plus many of the older standard songs that were being revived at that time. To these, Bing added some less familiar songs as further proof of his vocal versatility.

Unfortunately, this superb album is not commercially available, and unless you have 'contacts' in Australia, there is little chance of obtaining a copy. (EDITOR).

WILL YOU LOOK LIKE THIS, THE MORNING AFTER CHRISTMAS ? I HOPE NOT !

There was some excuse for Bing: those durned Apaches were after him - and shootin' up all the likker. It is, of course, Mr. Crosby in his fine role as the inebriate doctor in "STAGECOACH", recently running the rounds of the ITV regions. A more traditional picture of Bing overleaf.

Well, whether you leave your shopping until Christmas Eve, or start it in August, depends on individual ways. If the former, Christmas is a long way off still - nevertheless, it will be after Christmas 1971 ere we meet again, and as John Bassett said: A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS 1972 - WITH PLENTY OF HAPPY CROSBY LISTENING & VIEWING.

CROSBY

International Circulation *

C.C.P. 1141

YOUR SECRETARY

PURLOINS Reg Bowles

A PAGE

OR TWO, THROUGH THE KIND INDULGENCE OF EDITOR JOHN BASSETT, TO SURVEY THE CROSBY SCENE.....

+ + + +

As we have seen, however, Bing's career was built on a very firm basis. The result has been - 45 years gramophone recording, just another unique factor in this man's incredible and unique career. For the astounding news is confirmed that in this year of 1971, despite what many of us were beginning to fear, Bing has cut material for a new Christmas album!

No doubt many of our members will have seen the letter in the NEWS OF THE WORLD on Sunday, 17th October last which was headed:

"WHAT'S YOUR SONG TO REMEMBER?"

and read as follows:

An old pal of Reader's Write, Leslie Gaylor - the world's No. 1 fan of Bing Crosby - writes to remind us of an important date....

"Did you know that tomorrow is the 45th recording anniversary of Bing Crosby ? What other singer will ever equal his status when he calls it a day? I can't imagine.

"On the subject of song, I wonder what tune has a special, personal meaning for your readers? Maybe one that even changed their lives.

LESLIE GAYLOR.
(Newport, Isle of Wight.)

O Send us the real-life stories of any tune that means something important to you. There will be a bonus prize of an LP of your choice for the best letter to Readers Write."

(THAT IS "THE NEWS OF THE WORLD"'S INVITATION - NOT MINE! Though I hope some of our members will have taken advantage to tell of some great Bing record).

"THE WORLD'S NO. 1 FAN OF BING CROSBY...." That's a sweeping - and handsome - accolade to hand to Leslie! And I for one will not quarrel with it. There may be, indeed there ARE, fans with greater collections than Leslie's (he himself will certainly tell you this early in any conversation!) and who perhaps go further back in years to their introduction to the peerless voice, but for sheer, honest, devoted "fan-ship" Leslie, for my money, is the tops. He has journeyed from the Isle of Wight where he lives to the West End of London at the drop of a hat, or the merest whisper, that Bing is in this country (sorry, Britain for our overseas readers!) and waited hours outside the hotels Bing is known to frequent on the chance of a few words with the maestro. Oft-times he has been disappointed after such an involved journey. But he never flags. Leslie is constantly writing to producers at the BBC to remind them of this or that fact, or anniversary. And he is readily accepted by them, too! With the result that a large proportion of "Crosby mentions" on the air include the name of Leslie Gaylor. Similarly, he bombards the Editors of newspapers with letters extolling the great Bing. We all drop the occasional letter in these directions but not with the relentless, unwearying, diligence of Les. Among his real successes have been Bing's inclusion if THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS, and his feat in getting the BBC to play tracks from the semi-private collection issued by The Longines Symphonette Society - a thing the BBC is normally reluctant to do. Quite a lad, is Leslie Gaylor - and justly recognised by Bing himself as such. And as I say, I for one do not begrudge him the News of the World title, even tho' it may be slightly presumptuous to speak on behalf of the entire world!

And, perhaps superfluous to say, it was Leslie Gaylor who sent me the recording details of the new album that Bing has recorded. These are as follows:

S E C O N D T H O U G H T S!

Taking second thoughts, its almost certain that details of this album have already been given earlier on so I'll not repeat them. Sufficient to say that it was made for Daybreak Records Inc., in America and is all completely new material. It does NOT contain "White Christmas" or, indeed, any of the songs and carols Bing has so freely recorded over the years. This material breaks completely new ground, with Jack Halloran and Les Brown involved as musical directors. It DOES include the two titles Bing made last year for Christmas and issued in America only - and thanks (again) to Les Gaylor, one of the titles "A Time To Be Jolly" was actually broadcast by the BBC with the remark from the compere that no-one else in this country had the record. Actually, this was not totally correct for one or two other copies had found their way to leading collectors here!

And when most of us heard that it was for the little-known Daybreak Co., (little known over here, that is) that Bing had made the album, it seemed it was going to be one of those frustrating exercises to obtain the record from America as it would be unlikely to be put out here. Such, I'm glad to say, does not appear to be the case.

Our erstwhile secretary, ol' Frank Murphy, lost no time in writing to the Daybreak Co, and got a speedy reply which read:

"Thank you for your letter of Oct. 2 which we have just received with regard to Bing Crosby and Daybreak Records. For your information, Daybreak records will be marketed and sold in England-Ireland by Polydor under the Daybreak label.

"THE BING CROSBY 'A TIME TO BE JOLLY' (DR.2006) CHRISTMAS ALNUM WILL BE RELEASED IN ENGLAND PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO PRESENT PLANS OF POLYDOR. We suggest you contact Mr. John Wilkes at Polydor in London,

at Polydor Records, Ltd.;
17019 Stratford Place,
London, WLN OBL.

"Any assistance you and the rest of the Bing Crosby fans can give to the release of the Christmas album would besincerely appreciated by all of us."

On receipt of this news from Frank I immediately wrote to Mr. Wilkes, telling him what exciting news this was and hoping that the album would indeed be issued here before Christmas. This was late-October and no doubt more news will be available by the time you are reading this. It may be too late to be effective, but if any readers would care to write to the gentleman at the address given, it would show him that there is still a hefty demand for Crosby albums here and might easily lead to further issues.

The main thing is, of course, that Bing has been in the recording studios again in his 45th (No! 46th)year of recording. What a tremendous man he is.

The "Daily Mail" carried a nice article on 18th October last, giving the news of Bing's 45 years IN SHOW BUSINESS! Apart from this, and saying that "White Christmas" was his biggest record with sales of 6½ million, the article was highly readable. Readers will know that sales of "White Christmas" are in excess of 30 millions. But the story contained some typical Crosbyisms. For instance:

"All they'll ever say about old Bing was - he could carry a tune...."

And, inevitably: "I've been lucky, exceptionally lucky....." I repeat, what a man!

Then came a revealing remark from Bing which is a bit easier to accept: "The voice doesn't sound so good these days," he said, "we had to put down some of those tracks TWO OR THREE TIMES." Putting down, of course, means in the time-honoured discographers' jargon "TAKES"! Still pretty good, you know, when its not unusual for a modern pop group to take six months in making a so-called album....

Finally, Bing was quoted as saying: "Life's been good to me. I didn't deserve everything I got."

Don't you believe it, Bing! We're glad you can say that. We're glad life's been "good to you". It is some repayment for the limitless pleasure you have given so many people in so many countries for so many years. And long may they continue. And if he must reluctantly agree the magnificent voice isn't what it used to be, its still so far in front of the others it would be downright wasteful to think of "retiring"....

.....

I have a young friend, Philip (Pip) Knight, of 57 Burlington Road, West Bromwich, Staffs., and he is the 13-year-old son of our member Mrs. Eileen Knight. Pip, through his mother, is greatly interested in Bing (and very knowing about him, too) but he's also a great fan of BURL IVES, the great folk-singer of integrity. Pip is very anxious to obtain all the records of Burl he can get. If you can help him, or drop him a line first, I will count it a personal favour to myself. I hope that doesn't sound too presumptious.

.....

NB The article in The Daily Mail extensively quoted above was written by one HAYDON CAMERON.

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BIT OF A MYSTERY

Readers can hardly have failed to note the massive publicity campaign that has been mounted in the National press for the Bing Crosby "Golden Treasury Set - The Songs I Love". This is the handsomely-packaged set issued by the Longines Symphonette Society and already in the possession of most of us for a couple of years or so. For - this set was originally issued several years ago! In fact, Bing made the recordings in November and December 1 9 6 5!

What has prompted this obviously expensive campaign? Can it be that Longines have been surprised by the continuing enquiries from readers of BING, and other Crosby admirers and belatedly realised the still-tremendous appeal of Bing Crosby? It can hardly be that they found they had a few sets on their hands! These advertisements have cost a lot of money.

While the set is certainly worth having (it is beautifully recorded - just to hear Bing sing "Friendly Persuasion" justifies the six albums!) many readers/collectors feel a little jaundiced about Longines. This is because the set was issued with some ballyhoo and naturally, we all rushed for it. When we'd all got it - they issued it in stereo! Not only that, on the first issue, Bing sang just 18 numbers (if I remember rightly without playing the six albums through just now!) out of about 84. It was then issued AGAIN - with Bing singing 36 titles! And we just couldn't go on buying 'em!

AND SO TO LEEDS !

THE GRIFF ABOUT THE GRIFFIN !

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21 YEARS OF CROSBYANA

21 years! Looks a bit "thin" when, as we have noted, Bing has been recording for 45 years. But of course this was "21 years in the modern era" - the renaissance of Crosbyana around 1950, as it were! There have been Bing clubs ever since the early 30's - our own member for Hull, Alf Farrow, was very active in those far-off days when the whole world seemed a Crosby-club.

Readers know, of course, that Leeds has become the "mecca" of Crosby admirers in recent years because of the energy and enterprise of Michael Crampton. Normally, Mike prevails upon his indulgent mother to throw open his home for a week-end each year to receive around 30 fans - fans who come from London, Wigan, Manchester, Harrogate, CWMBRAN!, Keighley, and other far-flung places of the British Isles, not forgetting Scotland. Oh yes, we mustn't forget Scotland, especially this year! Or Birmingham!

Because this year was a little special, a change was decided upon - a-dinner-cum-meeting-cum-party at the Griffin Hotel, a noble edifice bang in the centre of Leeds. This was on Sunday October 3rd last - a murky, foggy, day. But that didn't stop 30 plus turning up. Mind you, they had to! They had paid in advance! Well, they came from all those places I mentioned and a happy feature this year was that many of the wives accompanied their husbands. We were especially pleased to see Mrs. Frank Briggs and Mrs. Arnold Pope, Frank and Rene Ashurst from Wigan (the Popes came from Manchester and the Briggs's from Hull). There was Tommy Smith from Keighley, with George Smith, Jack Feather (who clearly has vocal ambitions!) our urbane friend from Harrogate, Ken Hoyle, Fred Reynolds (Brum) who kindly took me on the second half of the journey to Leeds AND put up with me on the return in the small hours of Monday morning; Ralph Harding again graced the proceedings with his knowledgeable (and voluble) presence - and I know that won't offend Ralph simply because he knows it isn't meant to!

Then there were some of the "locals" from Leeds, Mary McNamara and friend, and her brother, Ken Lone. Frank Murphy showed that his interest is as keen as ever by journeying down from Wallsend with Billy Bell. My ever-genial friend from Ewell, Surrey - Charlie Tupper who once again stoicly endured the drive up from London with Ralph Harding. Speaking of these two, I believe its a fact that, owing to the fog, they entered the M1 motorway and actually drove some distance northwards on the SOUTHbound carriageway! And I certainly believe it. It was nice to see John Dobson again. He comes from an old stamping (not to mention courting) ground of mine - Eltham, in south-east London. And, happily, James Dineen made the arduous journey from Maryhill, Glasgow. You will understand why "happily" in a moment or two. Good grief, I nearly forgot my cricketing-friend from Hull - ol' Vic Gilmore! Mrs. Crampton was, naturally there - that's Mike's mother, not his wife! His "intended" (we're getting all Victorian!) was there - the winsome Judy, often referred to as "Hey Jude!"

Two more of the guests I met for the first time were of very particular interest to me for they were the couple who actually introduced Mike Crampton to the voice of Bing Crosby! They probably didn't know at the time what a sound and long-standing job they were doing! This was Harry and Mary Throp, who have known Mike since he was a small boy. They had a gramophone - and some Crosby 78s! "We've always liked old Bing," they told me, "and Mike certainly did, right from the first time he heard him." I think we ought to be grateful to Mary and Harry! Mary, incidentally, has been a victim of arthritis for some years but after intensive treatment has learned to live with it. And, I was delighted to note, it hasn't forced her to giv up dancing!

A small degree of formality marked the start of the proceedings in a rather ornate and comfortable louge of the Griffin that had been reserved for us. Michael opened the proceedings in his usual workmanlike style and subsequently called upon the "old" and the "new" secretaries to address the meeting. But it wasn't TILT formal, thank goodness and many a laugh was enjoyed.

OUR YOUNGEST MEMBER:

In surveying the Crosby scene, I was happy to remark that everybody in that room was my friend simply because of Bing Crosby - and I am conscious that those present were only a fraction of the vast number of people all over the world who are indeed my friends, simply and solely through our mutual admiration for Mr. C. And as for the state of Crosby-interest, I was delighted to tell them the story of Mr. Bruty. Which was roughly as follows.

A few weeks ago, Frank Murphy passed on to me a letter from a Mr. Bernard Bruty, who had written to Bing in America enquiring about a list of his, Bing's, recordings. Bing had referred Mr. Bruty to Frank Murphy as likely to be able to supply the information. Frank naturally passed the letter to me as Secretary. Well, I wrote to Mr. Bruty and described the ICC and our activities and invited him to join. This, in a further letter, he was happy to do. When acknowledging this, I remarked that he hadn't told me his first name and that was the way I liked to address our members.

So, I had a further letter from Mr. Bruty, in the course of which he revealed his name was Bernard. Then he added something else:

"PS. I was fifteen last week." !

It is my exclamation mark. I had assumed that Mr. Bruty must be a man of some vintage - say, between 50 and 60 - so you can imagine how startled I was to learn that our newest member was of such tender years. Well, it wasn't an unusual story really: Bernard had, out of curiosity, played some old records of his father's he had found in the house - and they happened to be of Bing! And in 1971 another lad was "hooked"! As you can imagine, there are plenty of records young Bernard wants - and I imagine that at 15 one hasn't too much money for fancy prices! It would be a wonderful gesture to our new member if we could add to his collection as economically as possible. His address is: Bernard Bruty, 23 Parkthorne Rd., Clapham Park, London, S.W.12. Why not drop this youngster a line? He deserves all our encouragement, I feel. We do, of course, have many young members, many of them as a result of parent-membership of ICC. But I can't help feeling that Bernard MUST be our youngest member in his own right. However, back to the meeting....

Ralph Harding was called upon to "say a few words" - and obliged in handsome fashion, including a reminder of how the word "Crosbyana" was coinced. There were welcome messages from our Editor, John Bassett. Most of those present

had, it seems, been hoping to make the personal acquaintance of our energetic young Editor, but alas, John couldn't make the trip. Nevertheless, his letter told of how honoured he felt to be Editor of BING. Johnny Jones sent a taped message wishing everyone well. He finished, however, on a sombre note, taking much the same line that Ray McCormack of Belfast took in the last issue: that the average person in Ireland was NOT a bloodthirsty thug and all deplored the violence that is now rending that country. It temporarily reduced the party to silence - a thoughtful, sympathetic, silence.

Readers will recall, perhaps, that a feature of previous meetings at Leeds has been the very novel tape that Mick Drury puts together for the occasion. He seeks in advance from the intending guests any Bing record they would particularly like played. The result is a long string of favourite Crosby recordings, linked by a humorous commentary from Mick. Because of the changed venue Mick had the happy inspiration to change his format this time.

I must break off here to tell you that there is a "round-robin" of Crosby collectors who pass around a large reel of tape, each of the recipients adding something to the tape in the way of chat or music. Some interesting (if long-term!) discussions are carried on, too. This is known as "Tape Crosby" and it was from these tapes over the past few years that Mick put together a humorous and interesting tape for the Leeds party. For example: discussion cropped up once over the various types of magnetic recording tape - which was the better? One of the contestants eventually perpetrated this: "He who acetates is lost!"

Then we heard Stan White, of Rothwell, Northampton, recounting how, heart in mouth, he met Ling in 1961 - and how Bing said: "Oh, you're the chap who liked me singing 'Road to Mandalay'!" Bing had remembered Stan's letter out of the thousands he receives. Mick also included part of an interview Mike Crampton did at Radio Leeds, describing the activities of the ICC. The tape, as ever, went down well. Then it was time for dinner.....

FILM SHOW:

After dinner we were treated to a quite unexpected treat! And this consisted of a film show - a film show par excellence in that we saw two of Bing's now-historic Mack Sennett film shorts. And in astonishingly good condition they were, too. We saw and heard the magnificant voice of Bing in that beautiful song "Every Time My Heart Beats" while Bing supposedly played his own guitar accompaniment - on the top "shelf" of a railway-sleeper, kidding the damsel in the lower that she was listening to her radio favourite! We had "Blue of the Night" - to prove Bing was Bing, etc. All were amazed at the sound-track quality of these films.

This delightful show was provided by JAMES DINEEN who travelled down from Glasgow. Not only that, James had a whole host of films he had taken featuring Bing in Britain - some at Cockermouth in 1966 and some as recent as Bing's August last visit to Scotland - of which see more further on.

Bing was seen working his way determinedly round the golf course at Gleneagles, looking amazingly fit and well - and giving the odd wink or smile in the direction of James's camera! And all in cour!

Everyone, as you will imagine, was highly appreciative of the show Mr. Dineen made such a long journey to provide us with. So, all in all, we had a pretty good time. There was one big draw-back to having the party at the hotel instead of Mrs. Crampton's house - the guests clearly missed the interminable pots of tea that good lady supplies on such occasion! And do you know, I think Mrs. Crampton missed them more than anybody!

A LETTER FROM THE STATES - - - - - - AND ESSEX, TOO!

---- AND FOR THAT MATTER, SEVERAL OTHER PLACES! SOME OF MY MAIL I HOPE YOU WILL FIND OF INTEREST. I KNOW I DID:

First of all, JIMMY JOHNSON JR, 3332 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Va. 23221, U.S.A.:

"Many times I've enjoyed your articles in Ralph Harding's "Crosby Collector" and of course, in "Bing.". I really appreciate them. It seems to me you two have grabbed a lion by the tail, but you're doing just GREAT. You and John Bassett should make a good team after getting over your first couple of issues together; with your Crosby knowledge you'll be a great help to John I know. In closing, Good luck to you guys, as it benefits not only Mr. Crosby, but us Crosby collectors as well. Most sincerely.....Jimmy."

That's a fine letter to get from America, is it not. One of many, I might add - and one of them really made me smile for it said "...you're doing a great job for our boy....!" Fair enough, but he's the world's "boy", you know.

....

AND WHAT OF THIS THOUGHT-PROVOKING LETTER from CLIVE SIMMONDS, 67 Overdale, Ashtead, Surrey - not far from Epsom I guess:

"....if I had been asked ten years ago my views on Bing Crosby, I guess I would have not given a more enthusiastic reply than: 'He's all right', or 'Pleasant voice'. But, having in those years acquired a collection of over 2000 78s, mainly vocal, spanning a half-century of music-hall, opera, theatre and ballads, Mr. Crosby, in his own genre, beats the lot of them, I think. Yet curiously, I have very few Bing 78s and only one set of reissues on LP. But I hope soon to put that right!

"Notwithstanding my growing appreciation of Bing Crosby, I have catholic tastes and am a confirmed addict of: John McCormack (in his acoustic days), Al Bowlly (how come Bing never made a commercial recording of 'Guilty'? Bowlly did, but on a day when either he or the recording engineer was off form, as he sounds unpleasantly nasal!), Galli-Curci (never mind if she didn't follow the musical notation very accurately. , I reckon she was the most listenable-to soprano of her era), and Tito Schipa....."

Clive's letter will be of particular interest. It is a recurring facet of Crosbyana, or Crosby collectors generally that they invariably like most music of integrity, music with merit. People often say to me: Do you listen to Bing ALL the time? And, of course, the answer is NO. Seldom a day goes by when I don't play an album or two, or a tape, naturally - but I like all kinds of other music, too - and naturally, listen to them. I don't normally make a habit of listening to symphonies, though when the mood takes me, I can relax and never tire of Tschaikovsky's music, particularly the "Pathetique" symphony, No. 6. But most of his music I find entrancing. Then again, I can always listen to Puccini's music - particularly the "hackneyed" parts of "La Boheme". Those tremendous arias of tenor/soprano never fail to move me intensely. And I love all the oft-played overtures - "William Tell", "Barber

of Seville", "Orpheus in the Underworld", "1812", "Poet & Peasant" and so on. Great stuff. On the other hand, I go for most types of vintage dance music... I haven't made a habit of collecting popular singers other than Bing. Simply because, in the main, I don't rate them all that highly. I go for Nowlly, of course, but mainly when he was a band vocalist, as Bing was at one time. And this gives me a chance to answer some other correspondents: NO! I do not think Al was a "British Bing Crosby". They had, both, warm voices, good appreciation of a song's requirements, good diction and intonation - but their timbres were vastly diferent, and much as I enjoy Al's singing, I can only paraphrase Bing's assessment of Paul Whiteman: Beside ot er bandleaders he stood out like Everest". Quite so, but if you put Bing in that position, it will be realised no-one deserves to be compared with Bing Crosby. It just isn't fair - TO THEM!

Mind you, I do have an album or two of Perry Como, but - and oh yes, some of Jolson, but I guess everyone has them!

NOW I'M REALLY GOING TO SHOCK YOU! I have a tremendous admiration for:

THREE GUITARS! No, not electronic ones played by long-hair drop-outs, but three guitars complemented by a HARP! The more discerning will have realised that I refer to Latin-American music mainly as exemplified by groups such as those of Luis Alberto del Parana and his Paraguayans though since I started collecting this type of music I have found to my delight that there are several other similar groups. I fully believe this type of music to be one of the true, surviving, folk music forms. This music has the benfit of that intensely lyrical language, Spanish, for its interpretation. It has great rhythm, though not, I hasten to add, in the "jazz" sense but an intriguging, infectious, rhythm, nevertheless. It has mostly beautiful melody, often very beautiful melody. But above all, the singers seem (to me) transparently HONEST in their musical integrity. For instance, I get the impression when listening to them, of the great care they take to make their voices blend harmoniously. Indeed, I get the impression they would love their singing if NO ONE ELSE WAS LISTENING TO THEM! If my readers are fairly unacquainted with this type of music, I feel certain that if they put themselves out to listen to it a whole new world of music would open up to them.

Beautiful songs such as Malaguena, Cielito Lindo, O Canganceiro (The Bandit), La Cucurachcha, and so on are fairly hackneyed, possibly, but if you listen to songs such as Adios, Marguerita Lindo, Cu-Cu-Crr-Paloma, Galopera, Adelita, Maria La Guerilla, and many, many, more, you could not, I feel, fail to become fascinat ed by this music-form. The Paraguyan har, by the way, is slightly different to the harp we see in England, being of 4-octaves and "diatonically tuned" - whatever that may mean! It is often featured in solos, and perhaps "Pajaro Campana" (Bell Bird) is the most famous harp solo.

I well remember when the Paraguayans came to England on an ambassadorial trip sponsored by their government in 1952-3. They appeared on BBC TV in an Eric Robinson "Music for You" programme. I was immediately captured by them. Subsequently I spent 3 years in Gibraltar/Spain where I heard lots more of this type of music, and I became, in short, an "afficionado" for ever!

There is another highly melodious trio called Los Zafiros (The Sapphires) and with all respects the great Arthur Tracy, The Street Singer, those who haven't heard this trio singing "Marta" haven't lived! Then there is that wonderful melody "Guantanemara"!

Well, now, how did I stray so far? I did say Clive Simmonds letter was thought provoking, didn't I? And its not unconnected with Bing - for I firmly believe one of Bing's finest albums is the one of Latin American songs, "In A Little Spanish Town". In fact, I can think of nothing better I would like to hear than an album of Bing singing with Los Paraguayans! He did dabble with a Latin-American group - what was it, The Banda Lua? But mainly, his Latin-American efforts were with big bands, mainly Xavier Cugat, of course.

THE AFFLICTION OF DEAFNESS - AND A RECORD LOVER:

From time to time the truly awful thought crosses my mind of what a catastrophe it would be for a record-lover to lose his or her hearing. Human existence being what it is, it is bound to happen to some poor souls. Deafness is, of course, a tremendous affliction - more, usually, than normal-hearing people appreciate. But to be deprived of the pleasure of listening to music must be a cruel blow, frightful to contemplate. These thoughts recurred to me as I read a fine letter from a good friend of mine, BILL WHITE, 47 Victoria Rd., Brentwood, Essex. Bill writes to me quite profusely, I'm happy to say, on all sorts of subjects mainly connected with music, from the Savoy Orpheans to Los Paraguayos, naturally taking in Bing on the way! He also tells me, as all letters from ANYone do, a considerable amount about his character! But this is unwitting and incidental. For instance, he and his wife out on a shopping chore come across a junk-shop with a couple of thousand records. "You're not going through THAT lot!" says the good lady, aghast. "I am - I MUST", answers Bill. "Well, in that case I'd better help you.....what are we looking for?"

Aforementioned lady blanches when given a quick list taking in most vintage dance bands, Bing, Hills Bros. and so on. But she persevered! Well, that has happened to me, too. Whether it is marital duty - or a fear you won't be lumbered round the supermarkets &c. is anybody's guess! But again, I'm straying. This particular letter revealed (and I hope this won't embarrass Bill White) a degree of compassion maybe we should all emulate. Bill said:

"When I wrote to John Bassett I sort of gave him a brief outline of how I came to collect Bing records in the first place. Since then I've been thinking about it a lot....sort of pleasant memories. I remember how it all came about. I used to go to school with a fella whose elder brother had spent most of his boyhood in hospital. He was deaf in one ear and couldn't hear very well with the other one. Consequently, he couldn't read or write. When he was finally discharged as cured he was old enough to start working in his father's business, learning the building trade from scratch, as it were, his dad being a master builder.

"Being a regular visitor to his home I soon got to know him pretty well and we became great pals, almost inseparable you might say. Having been deaf more or less for most of his life, one of his most valued possessions was an old wind-up gramophone and a stick of Jimmy Rogers records. These he was for ever playing. He soon knew all these records by heart (and so did I!). And having bought and learned to play a guitar, he could soon sing and play in a pretty good imitation of them. Imagine that, and he deaf to all intents and purposes.

"Came the War and yet another elder brother joined the RAF and before going off, he gave Ron, that was my friend's name, an album of a dozen Bing Crosby records. If I remember rightly they all had picture labels and were Western-type songs, but I may be wrong about that. Anyway, they were right up Ron's street. Soon Ron had the Bing 'bug' and we used to tour around all the second-hand shops picking them up. It had to be second-hand shops as we didn't have the cash to buy new ones. I had to read all the labels, remember, as Ron couldn't read them yet. Yet, after he had had them some time he could tell at a glance which was which. I suppose the labels formed a picture in his mind as to what was on the records. I can't really explain it and neither could he.

"By this time I, too, had a gramophone which I had bought off a workmate, together with about a hundred records, the only one of which I can recall is "The Whistler and his Dog", played on an organ! About this time, a friend who worked as an office boy for the London office of the New York Herald Tribune, introduced me to Bix. I was hooked good and proper and you'll see how this ties in later. Meanwhile, back to Bing....

"As Ron's collection grew, so he found that he was getting duplicates - the same titles on different labels. These duplicates, naturally, were passed on to me.

"One of these, "Skylark" and 'Humpty-Dumpty Heart' with Woody Herman's band on the latter I dearly loved, but alas, 'twas broke and never replaced. By this time we were able to afford new records - a considerable step forwards! - and we got to be regular customers of a shop called the Busy Bee. In Leyton, it was. I was after Bix items, Ron after Bing and Country & Western discs. The chap who worked in the Busy Bee was a little hunchback by the name of Charlie Smith, and what he didn't know about the record trade I should think was hardly worth knowing. Charlie used to keep a couple of boxes for us, and anything he thought might interest us he put to one side. Being Wartime, remember, records were becoming hard to get. As the War rolled on, they became harder still to get hold of, and there came a time when you had to hand in an old one to get a new one; they needed them for repressing, or something.

"Anyway, it seems all the records handed in for this purpose were not suitable for it, so Charlie had a large stock of old records on hand. One day he said: 'Why not look 'em over? There might be something for you there...' I hate to think now of what gems we passed over - or rather, that I passed over, as I still had to do the sorting. I must have passed up many a good dance band record, being interested then only in Le Jazz Hot...ah well. Then came my own 'call to arms'. I joined the Army as a private - and came out a private, but with the bonus of a wife. I had then, of course, other things on my mind to bother about record collecting - then one day I was talking to a fellow jazz-enthusiast who knew I was a Bix addict when he asked me the astounding question: What did I think of the Paul Whiteman orchestra with Bix? What? Bix with Whiteman, the King of Corn! Could it be? Assured that it was, thereafter I started searching for Whiteman records - couldn't buy them new then. I'd tried. I picked up a few, no Bix, then one day I found a battered Columbia of "Because My Baby Don't Mean 'Maybe' Now'. This was it! This was IT! The great cornet coming from the horn of the gramophone. But what was this? I know that voice, surely? Yes, it's Bing. Bing himself singing with Whiteman! You must remember that hitherto I'd only picked up for my friend Ron the records with 'Bing Crosby' actually on them. Here was a new treasure trove - Bing with Whiteman, with Bix! That was a long time ago and I've come to realise there is a lot more in music than the "hot" - but Bix remains my favourite cornet player and, needless to say, Bing my favourite singer...."

"PS. Ron can read and write now. His wife taught him. He got married in his late thirties to a very nice widow. I lost touch with Ron about ten years ago. Who knows, he may be a member of the ICC...."

Well, according to the name Bill White gave me, Ron is not, alas, a member of ours. I wish he was....

I only hope that Bill White knows of Bing with Gus Arnheim! Younger readers will be interested that during the War you had to hand in an old record to BUY a new one! This was because of a shortage of raw materials, shellac, to be exact, and old 78s could be 'melted' and used again. It is quite clear, as Bill ruefully reflected, that many great gems were lost because of this necessity.

But imagine, Bill "reading" the recordings for his deaf friend, who despite this great handicap, became a record collector par excellence. One can only admire such spirit.

SEND YOUR LITERARY EFFORTS TO JOHN BASSETT: SEND YOUR SUBS. TO REG BRISTO, ----- and Reg is always delighted to hear from you....

HATE TO SOUND MERCENARY BUT PROMPT PAYMENTS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS WHEN DUE IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THE MAGAZINE'S EXISTENCE! YOUR CO-OPERATION IS CORDIALLY INVITED.

BING CROSBY

No 13

+ + + + + +

ACCOMPANIED BY —

the McINTIRES / LANI AND DICK

"ALOHA ON A STEEL GUITAR!"

Previously in this Series:

1. John Scott Trotter.
2. Victor Young.
3. Paul Whiteman.
4. Buddy Cole.
5. Vic Schoen.
6. Gus Arnheim.
7. The Dorsey Brothers.
8. Jimmie Grier.
9. Bob Crosby.
10. Lennie Hayton.
11. Georgie Stoll.
12. Billy May.

There are those to whom the steel guitar is anathema - a musical abomination, in fact. Bing Crosby clearly was not one of them! I like it though willing to concede that too much of it becomes monotonous. And, of course, that applies to many instruments and types of music. Bing indeed has shewn a distinct leaning towards the music exemplified by the steel guitar - in fact, it is more commonly known as the Hawaiian guitar. The collectors of Crosby records have, more or less, got to like this plaintive instrument....

And it cannot be denied that the records Bing made with the McIntire brothers, Lani and Dick, provide a highly melodious slice of Crosby recorded history. I must confess that since embarking on the McIntire brothers I have wondered whether or not I should not have made it Bing's Hawaiian songs as a whole, for Bing made many other Hawaiian records with other combinations. The Paradise Island Trio comes instantly to mind. Then there was Nelson Riddle, though this is an entirely separate story, I feel. And again, we <u>are</u> dealing with Accompanists.

So, that you may marshall in your mind just what records comprised this highly musical slice of Bing's recording story, I give as always the list of such records - and as always, this list has been compiled from the pages of THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY, the comprehensive discography compiled by leading members of Crosbyana in the U.K. Mark that, in the U.K! And as always, I gratefully acknowledge the source of my listing.

It is said that Bing proposed a vacation in Hawaii. This was around the middle-Thirties and was his first visit to this exotic group of islands, under American administration of course. To herald this visit, Bing recorded "Song of the Islands" and "Aloha Oe". These were so enthusiastically received that they marked a long-term association between Bing and Hawaiian songs.

List of recordings follows on next page . . . . . .

WITH DICK McINTIRE & HIS HARMONY HAWAIIANS:

No.	Title.	Recording Date.	Remarks:
1.	Song of the Islands.	23.7.36	
2.	Aloha Oe (Farewell to Thee)	"	
3.	South Sea Island Magic.	4.8.36	
4.	Hawaiian Paradise.	"	
5.	To You, Sweetheart, Aloha.	13.6.39	
6.	My Isle of Golden Dreams.	"	
7.	Trade Winds.	1.7.40.	
8.	A Song of Old Hawaii.	"	
9.	Aloha Kuu Ipo Aloha.	"	
10.	Sing Me A Song of the Islands.	19.1.42.	
11.	I'm Drifting Back to Dreamland.	"	
12.	The Singing Sands of Alamosa.	"	
13.	Remember Hawaii.	"	

WITH LANI McINTIRE & HIS HAWAIIANS:

1.	Sweet Leilani.	23.2.37.	Million-Seller.
2.	Blue Hawaii.	"	
3.	Dancing Under The Stars.	11.7.37.	
4.	Palace In Paradise.	"	
5.	When You Dream About Hawaii.	"	
6.	Sail Along, Silvery Moon.	"	

WITH HARRY OWENS & HIS ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL ORCHESTRA:

1.	Sweet Hawaiian Chimes.	13.4.38.	
2.	Little Angel.	"	

I doubt if there will be any objectors to the claim that Bing's Hawaiian recordings are a melodious slice after perusing the above!

McIntire seems an unlikely name for Hawaiians, does it not? But many non-Hawaiians were able to assume the garlands and put over authentic sounds. For instance, easily the most popular Hawaiian band in Britain ever was that of Felix Mendelsohn and his Hawaiian Serenaders, a highly popular outfit which recorded prolifically and among many vocalists used George Barclay who had a nice, deepish-toned voice and used Crosby phrasing! And as far as I know, no-one in the band had ever been near Hawaii! However, back to the lists....

Two numbers will stick out to all Crosby admirers for very particular reasons. Dick was the accompanist for "My Isle of Golden Dreams", the record which Bing has consistently named as the only record of his which HE thinks his tolerable to listen to. Bing has often named a variety of songs when asked what was his favourite song, but always he names this one as the one on which he thinks he made a worthy vocal effort. Note the difference.

To his brother Lani fell the honour of accompahying Bing on "Sweet Leilani" which until fairly recently was regarded as Bing's first million-selling record. Indeed, it is still in most record books as such though the Crosby office has since confirmed what many of us were certain about - that there were several such sellers. Even allowing for the fact that records didn't sell in those days with the apparent ease they do today, it is inconceivable that Bing went all

through those halcyon years of the early, mid and late Thirties without achieving a million-selling record. Absurd! But that was, as I say, in the unofficial "record" books - and indeed, it was said that this record of "Sweet Leilani" made, as you can see, in February 1937 didn't achieve the six-figure sale until 1941. I think we can dismiss this altogether.

At the same time as "Leilani" Bing made that other great companion number, "Blue Hawaii". This itself swept the world and indeed might even today be described as a standard, for it crops up constantly in album names. A lovely melodious number - but that, of course, applies to all these Hawaiian records, without exception.

For many years I believed "Trade Winds" to be Bing's finest record. I'm not sure that I don't now - except that it would show me up as an incorrigible contradictor! Like my good wife, who while a fan, is no addict. Every Bing album I play she will turn to me and say: "Now THAT'S Bing's best album...." So far she has nominated 18 in this fashion.... though to be perfectly fair, she remains fairly constant to "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling". The Welsh have quite a liking for Irish songs - and that's not a bit of Irish, I hope! But "Trade Winds" is a lovely record for all that with a beautiful, typical, Crosby low-note finale. What about "Singing Sands"? All right, I can almost hear the chorus from my readers! And I agree - lovely.

I believe a collection of these songs would have comprised one of the long-delayed (if not abandoned) Coral issues we've all been so patiently waiting for. This would indeed be a highly popular reissue. There was a 10" LP Brunswick in the mid-Fifties but no collection since. Many of us are fortunate enough to possess the 12" LP issued by Decca in America. "A Song of Old Hawaii" (a particular favourite of Les Gaylor, I remember) would make a nice change for the album, if it eventuates, giving "Blue Hawaii" a rest.

But as I say, pick where you like, on these records and you get a first-class melody, beautifully sung by Mr. Crosby - "Palace In Paradise", "Dancing Under The Stars"....

I would like to be able to tell you something about the McIntire brothers - but I know little or nothing of them. If any reader can tell us about them I'll be grateful. You will see that the recording association began in July, 1936 and ended, prematurely perhaps, in January 1942. That was with Dick, and curiously sandwiched in between were the six titles with Lani! There must be a story here.

"Sweet Leilani" and "Blue Bawaii" were, of course, the big hits of "Waikiki Wedding". In fact, the story is told that when Bing reached Hawaii he heard the song, which was composed by Harry Owens, the bandleader. Bing was impressed and is alleged to have rung Harry. Mrs. Owens answered the phone and when our maestro said "This is Bing Crosby..." the good lady is alleged to have replied: "Oh yes, and I'm the Queen of Sheba...!" True or apocryphal? I don't know, but its credible. Harry Owens had composed the song to mark the birth of his daughter. Leilani Owens would now be 34. It would be nice to hear about this lady who inspired such a tremendous song success.

And you will have observed that I did, after all, include in the listing the one record Bing made with Harry Owens and his Royal Hawaiian Hotel Orchestra. 'Twould be a pity to omit him at this juncture and one record would hardly make a feature on its own in a future issue! In any case, with 94 accompanists and only four issues a year I've obviously got to get a move on!

There was another "Hawaiian" song in "Waikki Wedding", written by Robin/Rainger the melodious team: "In A Little Hula Heaven". Not quite in the same vein as most Hawaiian tunes and recorded, anyway, with Jimmy Dorsey & his Orchestra.

"L final word about "Sweet Leilani", which has appeared on several albums, it won the Academy Award for the best movie song of 1937. And come to think of

it, it was Robin and Rainger who wrote "Blue Hawaii".

Why did Bing's recording association with Dick McIntire come to what seems an abrupt end in January of 1942? I don't know - just one of those things in the natural order of things. Perhaps it was felt Bing had exhausted the run of Hawaiian songs? Who knows.... Lani kept going for certain, for there has been an album of his on one of the budget labels (RCA Camden is it?)of - as you would expect - Hawaiian favourites.

Bing did return to the "Hawaiian field" when he made that lovely album with Nelson Riddle's backing, "Return to Paradise Islands". And, as we have remarked before, this was a complete change and had little in common with the tunes which have, perhaps, become slightly hackneyed on account of being so popular. And the steel guitar is not very much in evidence! But it has some wonderful melodies - "My Tane", "Lovely Hula Hands", "Old Plantation", "The Hukilau Song", and so on. BUT, it had little of the traditional Hawaii effects, lpping, strumming, rhythms, the sad, nostalgic, guitar which always manages (to me) to evoke a feeling of nostalgia for Hawaii - even if you've never been there. Or indeed, are ever likely to go there.... such is the magic of music. In its way, it is as indigenous as Paraguayan music!

Let's hope a comprehensive selection of Bing's work with Lani and Dick is reissued for the sake of all those to whom the above is largely incomprehensible.

And it may well be, alas. I have had many letters recently enquiring about the International Crosby Circle: are there any qualifications? Bless you, of course not - except an abiding interesting in Bing Crosby! It exists for all those who have this interest; it offers a friendship circle to kindred spirits, pen-friends, new avenues for obtaining records and tapes, up-to-date news of our great maestro - and a wonderful sense of belonging! YOU DO NOT NEED a full collection! Let's face it, only a handful throughout the world can boast of this for such a collection is a formidable achievement. The member with a couple of dozen (or less) 78s, WHO NEVERTHELESS TREASURES them, counts as high with us as the top-notch No. collectors - and that is, of course, no disrespect to those big collectors. Far from it: we're honoured to have them among our members. It would be invidious to mention such names. We know them, however, and deeply appreciate their continuing interest through the years.

And in case yours truly ever gets the feeling that all has been said about Bing, I get some pleasurable surprises. For instance (again) people write to me and say: "You, and others, refer to the Autobiography set.... what is it?" Or, what are these BING Hollywood records you often refer to....? You can be sure I'm very happy to tell them. And it is a happy reminder that we are recruiting people who are keen to "catch up".

So, my friends, no qualifications, except the one mentioned. And furthermore, note this; there is no "probationary" period either. If you want to tell us your story about Bing - TELL US! Tell John, tell me.... It seldom lacks interest.

AND NOW! A LETTER TO CHEER ------

Dear Mr. Bristo,

Thank you for your letter dated 18th October regarding BING CROSBY. Your information is correct that Bing Crosby is now recording for Daybreak Records which is one of Polydor's labels.

The album, "A TIME TO BE JOLLY" will be released in November, also the title track will be released as a single in approximately three weeks' time. The album was produced by the Daybreak Records' President, Mr.

Sonny Burke, and is, without doubt, one of the best albums BING CROSBY has recorded.

Thanking you for your interest,

Yours sincerely,

POLYDOR RECORDS LTD.
17/19 Stratford Place,
LONDON, W1N OBL.

JOHN WILKES.
A. & R. Co-Ordinator.

So, the signs are that you may actually have the album by the time you are reading this! I certainly hope so.....especially in view of Mr. Wilkes's final statement! It's a tremendous thing, I feel, that for this Christmas of 1971 we have a newly-recorded album from Bing.

AND ANOTHER LETTER I'M HAPPY TO PRINT - THIS COMES FROM OUR PARTY FILM-CONTRIBUTOR, JAMES DINEEN, of 42, Melvaig Place, Wyndford Estate, Maryhill, Glasgow, N.W. ---

> "Please pass on my sincerest thanks to all who were present at the 21st anniversary meeting in Leeds. I felt very humble indeed at the kind appreciation, not to mention the applause, which my efforts received. For me, it will always be a night to remember. I sincerely mean that Reg. I have never, repeat, never felt such warmth and affection from such a group of people. You Reg, and all the other members present were, to me, just great. If ever I get another invitation, I'LL BE THERE, for you great people from 'over the border' take a lot of beating when it comes to generating goodwill - and I was very grateful, too, to Mrs. Crampton who just couldn't do enough to make me feel at home."

Thank you James - but as I've assured you, the pleasure was ours. We'll always be glad to see you. And that goes for our friends who for various reasons have not yet made a trip to LEEDS.

\+ + ++ + +

WILL YE NO COME BACK AGEN? ...

... was the thought of another of our Scottish stalwarts, N I N I A N F A I C H N E Y, when, a few years ago, Bing visited Bonnie Scotland and Ninian, despite tremendous efforts, missed him.

BUT NINIAN WAS GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE! Bing, as some of you will know, was in Britain again last August. He was briefly in London, to the chagrin of the southern members who missed him, and then retired to the sylvan surroundings of the great Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland to indulge one of his favourite pastimes in one of the most beautiful surroundings - GOLF. Ninian, living about 30 miles away, on this occasion realised an ambition he has nurtured for about 36 years by meeting Mr. Crosby. Needless to say, we're always willing to share the thrill of our members who do effect this meeting.

This great event for Ninian has already been reported. Indeed, Ninian in his retiring way, is a little alarmed that it will be felt he is making too much of his happy experience. But he needn't be. His delightful story of the meeting is a mixture of humour and humility. Imagine him telling, in his braw Scots accent, of riding his motor-bike the 30 miles to Gleneagles, park-it among the Jags and Rolls Royces! The great disappointment of being told "Mr. Crosby is holding a private dinner-party and cannot be disturbed..sorry."

Ninian faced the prospect of the ride home: "How much is bed and breakfast?" he finally enquired. Learning that a room, without breakfast, cost about £8.50 Ninian made the philosophical remark that his "wife is expecting me home anyway!"

But he made the trip again next evening: this time he was luckier and, therefore, successful in his mission. Joining a big crowd - this time he parked his moter-bike some distance from the Jags. &c - near the 18th hole, he heard the magic words - "There he is!" And there at last, MLS Bing Crosby.

A drizzle had set in and Bing made a gesture of dismissal to some people who approached him, probably reporters. But, though slightly deterred, Ninian fell in step with Bing - and showed him the letter Ninian had received from Bing on the previous occasion, "Sorry we missed, Ninian". And Bing remembered.

"Let's get out of this rain and perhaps we can do something," Bing said to Ninian. This was done and Bing signed several pictures and Ninian's "Crosby File", glancing through the lists of records, tapes, and pictures, with every sign of genuine interest.

Then a real moment when, James Dineen taking pictures of Bing, heard Bing say: "Hey, let's have Ninian in on this...." And so Ninian has a permanent memento of his meeting with Bing.

"It was a tremendous thrill," said Ninian, "to be able to say to Bing in person just how much pleasure he has given me for so many years. And to thank him for it all."

A fine story, I feel. And I know you will all agree. And an encouragement for all those who wish to meet Bing themselves. It is not easy, these days. As you know, Bing seems to slip in and out of the country, avoiding any publicity. But as Ninian Faichney has shewn, it can be done.

The newspapers in Scotland, incidentally, gave very wide coverage to Bing's visit. Pictures and interviews at the airport on his arrival certainly showed that his visits still attract large crowds of people - and indeed, this persisted throughout his visit to the extent that there was invariably a large "gallery" following him around the course when he ventured out.

....

Have you noticed that, almost without exception, our big cities are well sign-posted through junction after junction - UNTIL YOU COME TO THE VITAL ONE! Leeds is a case in point: I calculate that Fred Reynolds and I went round the centre of Leeds about six times faithfully following the signs for the M1 - and each time were baffled at the important turning. Finally in desperation we set off down a dark, foggy, road - and it turned out to be the right one. But not before a kindly policeman had directed us as follows: "No, no, you're going in the wrong direction. Have to go back - then, see where that lorry is turning left? You turn right. But you can't do that, it's 'one-way' traffic. So you'll have to go right, then right, the....." YOU'RE RIGHT: we ended up where we started!

Not that Birmingham, Fred's home town is much better! Seems to me every time I'm in Birmingham the subsurbs change every hundred yards. And of course, this is so, and points to the origin of Birmingham as the great Midlands metropolis. Originally it was a collection of villages which, through the progress of the Industrial Revolution, were all joined together finally.

....

DISCROSBY

CHATTING ABOUT BING'S RECORDS - OLD, NOT SO OLD - AND BRAND, SPANKING NEW !

NEW? Let's deal with the new immediately! The Mini-Discography, listing Bing Crosby recordings from 1926 up to "Thoroughly Modern Bing" and "Hey Jude" must be held by most members now for there has been a brisk response. And I'm sure all will agree its a very useful thing to have: it is a history of song, enables one to fix other events in one's mind otherwise only associated with a particular song, and enables one to mark off how one's collection is progressing.

Enclosed on a "loose sheet" are the details of the new album so that holders may insert it inside the back cover of the listing so that it remains complete and up-to-date. There is a possibility that the POLYDOR catalogue no. will not be available by the time we go to press so it may have to be given in the January issue. Tho', of course, you will all know it by then....

For those who haven't yet got it, it costs 50p, post paid, and is 45 pages with pictures of musical history. Half-a-dozen or so left....

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AND NOW, I'M GOING TO CHEAT: "DISCROSBY" IS USUALLY MY OWN MEANDERINGS ABOUT CROSBY RECORDS BUT THIS TIME I CAN MAKE A WORTHWHILE EXCEPTION.

The excellent Scottish newspaper coverage of Bing's visit North of the Border in the summer has already been mentioned. On Thursday, 21st October, 1971, THE SCOTTISH DAILY EXPRESS ran a big feature entitled:

BING / OUR MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS!

WE ASKED YOU IF BING'S SONGS BROUGHT BACK HAPPY MEMORIES OF YOUR .... ENGAGEMENT, WEDDING OR SOMETHING. HERE IS A SELECTION OF YOUR LETTERS FROM A HUGE POSTBAG.

"I was staying on the oil tanker my husband served on while it was in dry dock on the Tyne. To celebrate our fifteenth wedding anniversary we went into Wallsend to see that lovely picture "High Society", starring Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Grace Kelly.

Bing and Grace sang 'True Love'. We felt it was being sung just for us, and to this day I have only to hear that song and Bing's soft voice to be wafted back on nostalgic memories.

We were never to share another anniversary. My husband was lost at sea that year.

Mrs. Mary Sargent,
126 Dundonald Park,
Cardenden, Fife.

"In 1940 my husband and I were called up and we went to war with the theme tune 'White Christmas'. We spent our first Christmas at my husband's wartime billet. Bing's 'Silent Night' and 'White Christmas' came over the radio non-stop. Even the landlady said:

'It's that Bing's the time!' Now we think nostalgically of how Bing's songs helped. Indeed, a time to remember.

Mrs. Margaret Murray,
17, New Edinburgh Road, Uddingston.

"I had just returned from overseas, and was posted to an RAF camp. I met up with three or four others, and we discovered that it was really an American camp. We were the only British and we found a hut and beds all waiting for us, with no sign of officialdom. I put a record on the gramophone. Just as we were all stretched out the door flew open and a very British voice boomed: 'Stand by your beds!' The record— Bing singing 'If You Were But A Dream'.

Archie McInulty,
8, Lamont Road, Glasgow.

(This must be either a well-intentioned error in memory or not the correct title of the song for Bing has never recorded a song of this title - or one anything like it. And frankly, I cannot think of a lyric that carries these words. Anyone got any ideas? Reg Bristo)

"Christmas for as long as I can remember could not have been the same without Bing's 'White Christmas'.

D. Jack,
146 Glamderston Drive, Glasgow, W.3.

"My daughter is an incurable Rolling Stones fan, but even she is full of admiration for Bing. She admits the Stones won't be around in 45 years.

T. Dunn, Jnr.
17, Cloan Avenue, Glasgow, W.5.

"Since our courting days, my wife has always been one of Bing's ardent admirers. I must confess, however, that I have never shared the same enthusiasm until I discovered that Mr. Crosby and myself both enjoyed a game of golf. I am now a converted fan, for Bing - in the true sense of the word - is a real swinger.

B. Perston,
144, Albert Road, Glasgow, S.2.

"On our silver wedding anniversary my husband took me to see 'Going My Way'. We had to stand in a queue for an hour in drenching rain, but it was well worth the soaking.

Mrs. B. MacKenzie,
80, Wilson Street, Girvan, Ayrshire.

"I was listening to the incomparable Bing rendering 'Little Buckaroo' when the air-raid sirens heralded the oncoming Clydeside blitz.

M. Healy,
158, Butterbiggins Rd., Glasgow, S.2.

"A song called 'Small Fry' made popular by Bing a few years back is a very appropriate song for me this year. Part of the words talk about the biggest catfish in the sea. I caught the British record catfish this year.

Arnold Millar,
6, Saggar Street, City Road, Dundee.

"Bing's songs, 'Brahms' Cradle Song' a,d 'Holy Night' bring poignant memories of Christmas, 1943 in a busy Calcutta hospital when I was serving with the QAS in India. I remember the intense activity, the heartache and the happin-

ness, the strange allure of India itself, and the fulness of that period of my life during the war years.

A. C. Kirkland,
90, Dicks Park, East Kilbride.

"As one who has always admired the singing of Bing Crosby I never tire of hearing him sing 'White Christmas', my favourite song. He puts such a lot of feeling in all the songs he sings. He has no equal and I'm sure he has given a lot of pleasure to lots of folk.

Mrs. J. Bayne,
125, Churchill Street, Alloa.

"Although I have always been a fan of Bing Crosby, his early songs and films do not evoke happy memories. They remind me of New York city during the depression, bread lines, unemployment, two millions out of work in a city of eight million.

J. MacNamamara,
1, Ferry Road, Avenue, Edinburgh, 4.

"The first talkie I ever saw Bing Crosby in was a short film called 'The Passionate Plumber', in which he crooned a song (I believe it was 'Learn to Croon') That was away back in 1931 or 1932. I then marked him down as a great future success, which has since been proved.

Charles Y. Rennick,
19, Cathkin Rd., Langside, Glasgow, S.2.

(Did Bing sing 'Learn to Croon' in any film but 'College Humor'? In a Mack Sennett. Another little mystery for us here.)

"Bing's recording of 'One More Chance' will always revive nostalgic memories for me. We were in a dug-out in Germany during the last war, listening to this song on an old gramophone, when the news broke that hostilities were over.

William Hood,
9, Marionville Grove, Edinburgh.

"We had a small family party in 1931 for our parents' silver wedding. Our cousin had given us a portable gramophone. Whenever we asked mother what to put on her answer was always: 'Put on Bing'. I remember her words each time I hear Bing on the radio.

H. J. B. Scott,
Newstead, Melrose, Roxburghshire.

There's as fine a slice of Crosby nostalgia as one could wish to read. Note that apart from Britain, India and Germany were mentioned. And these nice people had another thing in common, apart from admiring Bing - NOT ONE OF THEM IS A MEMBER OF THE I.C.C.! They will, however, be receiving a copy of this issue each - and a warm invitation to join us.

The feature was sent to me by Mr. Dineen, and I expressly sought the permission of the Editor of The Scottish Daily Express to reprint the letters here. The feature, incidentally, carried three apprpriate pictures of Bing "singin'" "swingin'" (golf) and "actin'". This was a very happy inspiration on the part of the Scottish Daily Express which clearly brought an enthusiastic response.

"....the wind is strumming a sage-bush guitar..." WHAT A FINE, IMAGINATIVE LYRIC-LINE? But from which song does it come? The wind blowing across the prairie.... a sage-bush guitar indeed!

SHORT POINTS - BUT DON'T OVERLOOK THEM!

I read the Southampton story about St. Mary's with tremendous interest. The concept of Bing singing there is imaginative, not to say inspired.....but I'm afraid we must face a few unsympathetic facts: Bing doesn't make public appearances these days (seldom has in Britain); St. Mary's is a very common church name, tho' I concede the individual historical association with Southampton. It is an exciting prospect - Bing sees this so we can hope.... Reminds me we had "Bells of St. Mary's" on ITV (Westward) the other week. Great film, the talents of Bing allied to the loveliness of Ingrid Bergman. Some wonderful scenes: Ingrid teaching the lad to box! Bing just having to tell her she was ill at the end.... I believe I enjoy this film more than "Going My Way".....

My young friend "Pip" Knight (see p.42) has found amongst his (mother's) collection Brunswick 01166-B: "Out of Nowhere/If You Should Ever Need Me" A rare and early record, BUT, this copy has the "B" label ON BOTH SIDES! How rare? Fairly rare, I would think. If any CROSBY CURIO COLLECTORS would like it they should get in touch. Mrs. Knight says if it IS valuable she will see and give Pip the cash for more records!

Am I unfair to Billy May? Lionel Pairpoint gently chides me for being so.... More on the subject next issue.....

SO! Bert Day met Bing too! Great news. So many people write saying how much they would like to meet the Maestro. Can be done, as Bert and Ninian have shewn recently: Bing slips in and out of the country but there is usually a paragraph in the paper, or a word on radio. THEN YOU HAVE TO TRACK HIM DOWN! I'm afraid there's no formula, no procedure. It's hit or miss... Why, I'm waiting for the opportunity myself....its a tough assignment if you live far from London (unless you live within motorcycling distance of Gleneagles! That is the hotel from which Henry Hall made his first unspectacular broadcasts before his big days with the BBC Dance Orch, isn't it?

John has already welcomed new readers on our behalf. Glad to have them. Some though - Elsie Kennedy, Ron Horlock, Les Brice, Les Mackin, Bert Morton - are old friends and stalwarts of Crosbyana.... This issue will give the lie, I trust, to ol' Ken Hoyle's misgivings!

Pleasing some all the time? Robt. Girling, among others, delighted at the skeletal list of Bing's record NUMBERS - others say: "Numbers don't mean a thing to me, alas, can we have the titles...?" So, we'll try and mix 'em. Which reminds me: I have a large number of 78s which will be offered to members at 5p each, irrespective, plus packing. Obviously it will be better to pick half a dozen at least! 'Fraid I get to find time first. Perhaps next issue....

MRS. CHRISTINE DEE, Beverly Record Shop, 11612 South Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60643 (USA) has a large stock of NEW Crosby LPs, EPs, and 78s, many of them deleted. I must warn members, however, these are, in the nature of things, liable to be expensive. The information comes from Kenneth E. Gray, of 122 S.Michigan Avenue, Suite 1900, Chicago, Illinois 60603 (USA), who was also kind enough to send us a list of Crosby LPs he has seen for sale (new) in his area: further, he offers to get them for members at cost, plus postage. Suggest you write in the first instance to either Kenneth or Mrs. Dee at the addresses given.

Nice story from Frank A Hurst (Wigan) among good things in the next issue - good scrapbook material, too, from Bill White and Ray McCormack. AND, I've been in contact with stalwart Johnny Jones, away from the Troubles in Ballyhalbert.....

HAPPY CHRISTMAS !

REG BRISTO ++++

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE

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The Circle exists for all those people, in Great Britain and elsewhere, who have admiration and respect for Bing Crosby as one of the greatest entertainers of a life-time.

Members are welcome to use "BING" for modest advertisements re. records, photographs, information, &c. free of charge.

FOR SALE: One copy of the scarce US album "THREE BILLION MILLIONAIRES", United Artists UXL 4 (featuring Bing's "Tower of Babel"). NEW condition (Post Free) £5. First come, first served. A.S.Bishop, "Tideway", Imperial Avenue, Maylandsea, Chelmsford, Essex.

WANTED: "LES POUPEES DE PARIS" (LOC-1090). Good price paid for a copy in NEW condition. Write: The International Crosby Circle, 3, Old Hall Court, Great Wakering, Essex, SS3 OEN.

ERRATUM: We hasten to correct an error in our "TV Critique"....Bing's "fiancee" in "SING, BING, SING" was NOT Franklin Pangborn. This famous character actor was, of course, one of the male stars of the famous Mack Sennett "short".

And it seems Bill White's letter was dealt with twice! The only person annoyed at this will be Bill himself. Our apologies - but it was seen from different angles and is, in any case, slightly different in each case.

FOR SALE: "SAY ONE FOR ME" original soundtrack album (Phillips BBL 7335) One copy only: slightly used condition. £2.50p. Write the Editor.

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